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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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4 January 1985

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

WARLIKE SITUATIONS IN AFRICAN SOCIETY ANALYZED

Paris LE MOIS EN AFRIQUE in French Jun-Jul 84 pp 156-170

[Article by Lt Col Camille Nkoa Atenga of Cameroon]

[Text] Camille Nkoa Atenga is a lieutenant colonel in the Cameroonian Armed Forces and a graduate of the staff course.

Defense problems in Africa are both more complex and more tricky than all the other problems with which the continent must deal. So much so that there is reason to ask oneself whether they can be discussed in the open and even, especially, if they really exist on the continent and what their nature might be.

It is a naive question because even if we disregard the two world wars, in which Africa had only to follow the crowd, the fact remains that wars, regardless of how limited in scope they may appear to others--and precisely because they are limited--have put fire and sword first between tribes and then between several African countries. And considering what we will call the "belligenic" situations to be noted on this continent today, and indeed situations we will term "polemogenic," there is nothing that seems to indicate that peace--especially when defined as the interval between two wars or two conflicts--has been permanently established among the African countries, even those inspired by good will. If, that is, the good will in question is expressed solely according to Oscar Wilde's "philosophy," which said that "something that no one talks about does not exist."

It is a fact that solid armies--to which, rightly or wrongly, some thinking people sometimes do not hesitate to ascribe qualities that are not always flattering--are flourishing in all the countries that are independent or simply in the process of becoming independent.

It is true that among certain states, notably in West Africa, there are defense "contracts" guaranteeing peace among them and even calling for mutual assistance if one of them is attacked. An example is ANAD (Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement).

It is also true--although often falling within the scope of defense secrecy--that individual African countries have signed defense and security agreements or treaties with certain powers and even superpowers.

These and many other evident truths, taken together or considered separately, give proof of Africa's more or less latent anxiety while underscoring its determination not to be caught short in case of conflict. And it is precisely because of them that the question really arises concerning the reality or, more precisely, the materiality of the threat to peace and security in Africa.

This brings us by a very natural path to the polemogenic and belligenic situations in Africa. It is a very natural path, I do not scruple to repeat, because strategists and other experts on defense problems generally agree in maintaining that at least in a given set of circumstances, defining threats is the necessary if not indispensable precondition for organizing the defense of a country or simply of a sociopolitical entity. They do so even while recognizing that the increasingly broad interdependence of states in the modern world makes such definition difficult. Obviously, this can lead immediately to questions concerning the necessity or nonnecessity of armies for a country--that rare pearl--which does not recognize any threat. To such a country, I recommend simply the daily recital of Talleyrand's "prayer"--"My God, protect me from my friends"--in the absence of enemies against whom measures for one's self-protection are necessary. But let us not drift so quickly into levity. In any country, it is always possible--what am I saying? it is always certain--that one will find situations bearing at least the seeds of conflict if not the seeds of war.

Those are polemogenic and belligenic situations. Is there a clear dividing line between them? In the final analysis, is it not a matter of purely dialectical considerations? Those are some of the questions that can be freely asked. And everyone is equally free to find answers. The essential thing here, I believe, is to visualize as clearly as possible with respect to Africa a certain number of more or less gaping fracture lines which, if not avoided, may seriously hinder the indispensable peace that must exist or does exist among the continent's countries as well as between the industrial powers and the African states considered separately.

Obviously, that last hypothesis may cause more than one superficial observer to smile. But definitely not the bulk of those who, like you and me, are up to date concerning the outlines of certain geopolitical concepts in which Africa occupies a position of the first importance.

In any case, considered as a whole, Africa is undeniably faced with hereditary and newly created situations that have propelled it from the shadows onto the world podium reserved for the world's preeminent zone of conflict--a hardly respectable position. That description is not a figment of my imagination. Those situations, classified into two groups--polemogenic and belligenic--draw their poisonous roots entirely from two kinds of soil that are carefully tended, more or less deliberately, both inside and outside the continent's states and outside the continent itself.

The first group--consisting of polemogenic situations--includes the following internal elements, among others: the organization of African societies, population growth, political consensus, freedom of expression, mass information,

and the movement of people and goods. External factors are the use of armies and the geopolitical views held by others, notably the big powers.

Belligerent situations include the following in particular:

- a) Nonrespect for the principles of the OAU.
- b) Defense treaties in the traditional classic mold either between two African countries or within a given region or subregion, as well as between an African state and a non-African state.
- c) The armament, of increasing abundance and quality, that is being accumulated on the continent.
- d) Diversification by the states of their supply sources for armament.
- e) The Law of the Sea.
- f) And, naturally, the arrival of atomic weapons.

1. Polemogenic Situations

Polemology, which establishes a rather clear dividing line between the terms "belligerent" and "polemogenic," considers that the latter term refers to what is likely to create not a war, which is what the first term implies, but a conflict. That separation of concepts compels recognition from the standpoint of the highly noble but very complex goal that is naturally pursued by every political power in Africa as elsewhere: social peace for the benefit of development and, as a consequence, the development of its population. Because while peace among African nations is indeed, and can only be, the expression of a shared will constantly affirmed by political leaders, it is nevertheless advisable to emphasize carefully that such peace depends above all on civil peace within each state on the continent. Civil peace is eroded by polemogenic situations much more easily than by belligerent situations. And as everyone knows, a country's military effectiveness, today more than in the past, depends essentially if not exclusively on its economic structures, political institutions, and--and this deserves special emphasis--the social cohesion prevailing in that country. This is all the more true in that observation to date has demonstrated that in Africa, the conflicts that erupt for whatever cause within the states often have repercussions--not always muted--in the peripheral states.

Organization of African Societies

Historians usually view societies as being divided into three traditional overall forms of stratification:

- a) Societies of rank or state societies, in which the stratification consists of a hierarchy of ranks distinguished not on an economic basis or on the capacity to consume (a characteristic of the industrial societies), but on the basis of infatuation--the honor given by that society to the various categories of "social function."

b) Caste societies, in which the social groups or castes are ranked according to their degree of religious "purity" or "impurity." Each caste constitutes a closed world living in isolation according to very strict rules and in morbid fear of being contaminated by contact with a member of another caste and, in particular, the lowest caste.

c) Class societies, which include within each particular class those individuals who "play the same role" or "similar roles" in the production process and have similar sources of income and, secondarily, fortunes or incomes of comparable orders of magnitude, similar lifestyles, common interests, and so on.

In Africa, societies of all three kinds are found in varying degrees of purity. Despite that great diversity, however, it is possible to outline features common to all African societies.

In the first place, attention needs to be drawn to the essential and sometimes paramount role played in all those societies by the community or small group based on ties of kinship or simply the fact of living in the same area. The groups in question are tribes, clans, and lineages, but also village communities. Consisting of members whose mutual interpersonal relationships are "imposed" by custom and tradition, these social units draw their strength from the more or less hermetic totalities which they represent and cultivate to stress their "opposite" identity from that of the outside world. Solidarity is expressed primarily among members of the same lineage, the same village community, or the same country. Usually living within a limited area, the members are linked to each other by ties of blood and marriage that are generally renewed with each generation. The result is that kinship relations dominate in social relations.

If we add to that the fact that all the peoples of Africa are strongly oriented by ancestral tradition, we realize even more fully that the social reality underlying all organization--and prevailing from one end of Africa to the other--is the ever-hardy reign of traditional customs with everything they may involve in the way of nepotism. The large extended family is a decisive sociological reality that dominates and governs, more or less unofficially, people's behavior. If a member of one of those families obtains an administrative or political post, a crowd of "brothers," "brothers-in-law," "cousins," and "uncles" turns up to be supported in various ways that range from purely and simply moving in with him to asking for lucrative jobs both within the entity employing him and outside of it. Everything depends on "how long an arm" the holder of the position has.

As can be seen, the organization of this "larger family," which encourages nepotism--out of respect for tradition, moral duty, and who knows what else--is fertile ground for what is generally termed corruption. At the middle of the scale, one could interpret that corruption as being the means used by someone who has no well-situated "relative" or has no means of contact with that "relative" in time or even space to prevail on someone in a good position to act not against but in accordance with his duty. Reducing it to the absurd is the necessary means of finding a justification for the absurdity of corruption: that chronic illness of certain African bodies which creates and propagates

discontent and the feeling of social injustice, thus undeniably eroding the indispensable cohesion of nations.

Population Growth

The founder of polemology, Gaston Bouthoul, felt that wars sometimes occur sporadically as a spontaneous reflex action by the group affected by a population imbalance that jeopardizes its existence. Agreeing in a way with the French philosopher Bergson, who said that "in reality, people fight to maintain a certain standard of living below which they believe that life would no longer be worth living," Gaston Bouthoul suggests preventive action in connection with population changes to prevent war, which is an inhumane and destructive "demographic relaxation." It is a point of view well worth reflecting on.

In any event, Africa's annual rate of population growth is on the order of 2.8 percent--much higher than that of other continents. Considering that population on this continent is poorly distributed and insufficiently organized, there is reason to fear the consequences of the hard-to-control population movements across permeable frontiers that have already caused miniconflicts between states here and there. In addition to the fact that some countries on the continent are coming closer and closer to the critical threshold of overcrowding, with everything that can mean in the way of waves of migration to bordering countries, it is all the more important to master the population phenomenon in that some of those countries, being better off economically than the others, are poles of attraction. And since those arriving often swell the ranks of the unemployed or of those doing unskilled work, the mirage often ends in idleness, the mother of all vices.

Mass Information and Freedom of Expression

Generally speaking, everyone knows that regardless of regime, people are the sole concern of those in political power. So much so that to parody freely what General De Gaulle said about the conduct of war, one could say concerning democracy that except for a few basic humanitarian principles, there is nothing but people and leaders. No panacea.

People generally agree in mentioning mass information and freedom of expression as being among those basic humanitarian principles, all of which work together to broaden the foundations of the national consensus that Africa's political regimes pursue or seem to pursue. But consensus--agreement on the conduct of affairs by the states--cannot be achieved when desired unless domestic public opinion is a fully active partner--that is, informed as widely and quickly as possible and then given as much latitude as possible to express itself freely. It is all the more necessary--indeed easier--to achieve this in Africa in that because of the low literacy rate and the limited interest in reading on the continent, overall public opinion within the countries is often limited to the narrow confines of the intelligentsia.

In that context, information comes partly, and primarily, from the country's political authorities and partly from its political parties. The former address themselves to the population as a whole, whereas each of the latter

addresses itself primarily to its own voters while trying, naturally, to nibble away at voters from the other parties. In a single-party regime, the party tries to convince as many citizens as possible with a view to obtaining increasingly massive support for the ideals of that party.

It must be admitted that in Africa, information is not everywhere as free as it deserves to be. For that matter, the evil in question is not specific to Africa, as is also noted by the International Press Institute in its report published in London this year. Under the signature of Peter Galliner, director of that prestigious institute, one can read the following bitter lines:

"In many countries,... the image of guardian of the freedom of expression that the press has built up so carefully over the years seems to be fading.

"It is increasingly difficult today to find a country of which it can be said that its press has won more freedom. Almost everywhere, journalists are being faced with growing physical persuasion aimed at controlling information."

So the muzzling of information to a greater or lesser degree is an evil more or less common to all the regimes on the planet. But the thing that characterizes Africa, and for that matter the rest of the Third World, is what Galliner oddly calls "so-called journalism concerning the Third World," which, he says, "subjects to public obloquy any man of the press with good sense who tries to criticize the regime in power."

Large-circulation periodicals such as JEUNE AFRIQUE and LE POINT have looked into the same problem and gone far beyond the subject of information alone to discuss freedoms in general. Answering the question "Where Do People Live Free in the World?", the French weekly LE POINT says this in the introductory paragraph in its issue No 523 for 27 September 1982:

"Whether we are talking about the right to hold the opinion one chooses, publish what one likes, or read what one likes in one's preferred publication, or about the assurance that one will not be arrested, illegally confined, or kidnaped simply because of one's beliefs or thoughts, public freedoms are still fragile plants that are not at all widespread in the world of 1982, and they often fare less well in tropical climates than they do in temperate countries."

Faring less well in tropical climates than in temperate countries, JEUNE AFRIQUE does not put it any differently. Freedom of expression fares worse in Africa than elsewhere. This can be seen in particular in Africa's infatuation with the foreign media, the verbal propensity to exaggerate and distort bits of information in all social classes, and the fact that many articles are published in foreign publications under assumed names. All of this results in great confusion among the censors, who, like everyone in their circles of friends, enjoy the freedom to take note of everything before giving the green light or turning the light red. Their rulings are often more effective on paper than in reality, given the movement of people across hard-to-control frontiers and the various forms of collusion, notably among the elite.

Utilization of Armies

Utilization of armies? It must be admitted that what we are really talking about is their underutilization or poor utilization: underutilization and poor utilization from the standpoint both of the purpose of armies in principle and of the OAU's ideals.

Far back in history--the history of places other than Africa--the military institution was established especially to conquer territory (making it the main source of wealth) and to defend the values of the dominant class both at home and abroad. Since in our day the surface--the entire surface--of the globe has been divided up and distributed in the form of geographic zones and zones of influence or authority, an army's role consists chiefly of deterrence abroad of any attempt to challenge that division and of deterrence at home of any hint of action against the established order. In the case of certain big powers, the army may also go to the help of friendly countries. It is always a matter of preserving the status quo.

As far as the OAU Charter is concerned, articles II and III of that charter clearly define the objectives and principles of the African organization that is open to all of the continent's independent countries.

Article II says that the organization's objectives are the following:

- "a) To promote the unity and solidarity of the African states.
- "b) To coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa.
- "c) To defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence.
- "d) To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa.
- "e) To promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"To these ends, the member states will coordinate and harmonize their general policies, especially in the following fields:

- "a) Politics and diplomacy.
- "b) Economics, transportation, and communications.
- "c) Education and culture.
- "d) Health, sanitation, and nutrition.
- "e) Science and technology.
- "f) Defense and security."

Article III, which deals with principles, says this:

"The member states, in pursuit of the purposes stated in article II, solemnly affirm their adherence to the following principles:

"1. The sovereign equality of all member states.

"2. Noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

"3. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state and for its inalienable right to independent existence.

"4. Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, or arbitration.

"5. Unreserved condemnation of political assassination as well as of subversive activities on the part of neighboring states or any other states.

"6. Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are not yet independent.

"7. Affirmation of a policy of nonalignment with regard to all blocs."

It will strike even the least attentive observer that African armies as a whole are based resolutely on the strategy of deterrence. As everyone knows, that strategy of deterrence is a strategy not of nonutilization but of threatened utilization. The question that comes naturally to mind is this: who, precisely, is the object of that threatened use? No political leader of an independent African state would dare answer that the object is another independent country on the continent. And for good reason!

In practice, therefore, the armies, whose literal mission it is to ensure the defense and territorial integrity of the countries that established them, find themselves in an awkward position both strategically and tactically.

This is so strategically because in practice, the defense policies of the states do not "follow" the basic principles of the states themselves or, even less, those of the OAU.

It is so tactically because as a result of that strategic ambiguity, it is difficult to form any kind of doctrine.

In that case, you ask, what is it in general that African armies do? My answer to you is that naturally, they prepare for war. African armies prepare for wars so as not to have to wage any. Very naturally, that answer raises other questions. And it is precisely those questions which, if answered, would bring about many changes in application as regards both the organization and the use of African armies. Since those armies did not come into being like those in the East and the West, it would be futile--to say the least--for them to want to imitate the "philosophies" of the latter.

Africa's Place in Geopolitics of East and West

Geopolitics--or "political geography," as it was called by Ratzel in 1903--refers roughly to the study or simply the awareness of relations between states or even between social governments forming separate entities as well as to the means of drawing the best possible advantage or suffering the least possible damage from those relations. We all know that. We also know that as a science (which it is), geopolitics is slanted toward the effects of adaptation by states or groups of states to their geographic environments. It sketches out the rules of the political game for dealing with the advantages and weaknesses of the situation as it exists and the possible directions that efforts might take.

Generally speaking, the essential object of geopolitics for a nation-state is the permanent search for strategic and economic opportunities in that nation-state's continental and maritime periphery. As a result, two specific relationships are the basic objects of interest:

1. The human phenomenon in relation to the geographic environment.
2. The possibilities offered by the seas in comparison with those offered by the continents.

It is seen, then, that for a given state, geopolitics always presents constants and variables. The former have reference to location and territorial utility, the possibilities for external relations--especially with or by way of the sea--and the advantages of transit for neighboring countries. The variables, on the other hand, are related to three pairs of factors: population change and the possibility of providing sufficient food resources; the potential wealth in natural resources and energy resources and the ability to exploit those resources; and, lastly, the cultural and spiritual affinities favoring certain relationships and the politicosocial structures reflecting them.

In the ideologically divided world that we know, geopolitics is meticulously worked out under the powerful spotlights of East-West relations. The result is that the following are generally distinguished according to the seriousness of the threats that might affect a nation's existence:

1. The national sanctuary: the inalienable national territory, the very idea of whose destruction is unbearable.
2. The glacis or degrees constituted by spaces where the permanent deployment of larger forces than those usually found there would lead eventually to a radical threat to the life of the sanctuary through an unbearable modification of economic and military data.
3. Zones of national interest comprising countries linked to a state by defense agreements or vital cultural or economic flows, or simply by a similar philosophical approach to the world's political and moral evolution. They also comprise the maritime zones crossed by the bulk of a country's merchant traffic.

Are you looking for the place occupied by Africa in this hierarchy? Seek and you will find. You will also discover that Africa was not consulted at all before being given its onerous promotion. And its position is onerous notably because the threat assessment that might bring intervention in Africa by a big power may not be left up to Africa at all. The reason, as everyone knows, is that geostrategy, the instrument for achieving the goals defined by geopolitics, exists. And it follows geopolitics. Just slightly ahead of strategy.

2. Belligerent Situations

We have now moved up a notch. This obviously does not mean that a belligerent situation is more certain to result in a passage at arms than a polemogenic situation is. In our opinion, resolving a crisis situation depends on various and sometimes complex factors, and one chief factor is assuredly political will. But that will, no matter how adequate it might be when faced with a polemogenic situation--once purely domestic factors have been mastered--would be powerless in the face of a belligerent situation if the often multidimensional and complex interests at stake were to bring into confrontation two "worlds" that are ideologically divided and intransigent to boot. That is why resolving a belligerent situation--which constitutes a potential conflictual conjunction among states--always requires the use of varied, complex, and delicate means of regulation--means that are national and international and direct or indirect.

Nonrespect for Principles of OAU Charter

As far as defense is concerned, the basic objective proclaimed by the African countries is the third item under article II of the Charter:

"To defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence."

To achieve those ends, the signatory states pledged to coordinate and harmonize their general policies in the field of defense and security.

Also in connection with defense, and out of a concern to achieve more positive and more certain success, the OAU's member countries solemnly agreed to the following principles:

"Noninterference in the internal affairs of states."

"Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state and for its inalienable right to independent existence."

"Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, or arbitration."

The African states--and this is a very normal thing--are deeply jealous of their independence and insist just as jealously on respect for the frontiers of their territories. That (and here, of course, is where we diverge from the standpoint adopted in the Middle East conflict) explains the establishment of national armies by one and all to the extent allowed by their economic means and with due regard for domestic policy considerations as well. I dare not say

absolutely that the strong orientation of African armies toward excessive armament and the procurement of increasingly sophisticated weapons, as well as the signing by African states of defense agreements with non-African states, are due to concerns arising from more or less manifest territorial ambitions on the part of certain states on the continent. But who can state, also absolutely, that they are not?

That harmonization of defense and security policies among the OAU's member states remains in the sphere of wishful thinking. In its absence, and in the absence of a defense instrument proper to the OAU, it needs to be pointed out that failure to respect a single one of the principles stated above undeniably constitutes a most acute belligerent situation.

Defense Treaties of African States

We said earlier that from the standpoint of geopolitics, sociopolitical logic and indeed the inevitable necessities of daily routine make it advisable for each nation-state to be an open system in a constant relationship of coexistence with the others on its periphery. This naturally suggests other questions to the political authorities and those responsible for defense in the African states. Among those questions are the following:

1. What are the strategic and economic possibilities that each state must seek in its periphery?
2. What is the most appropriate strategic instrument for achieving that objective?

But even before one gets to those questions, the will to coexist, or rather, the will to live in unity and solidarity (notably in the case of states which proclaim and sometimes maintain very favorable good-neighbor relations), are enough in themselves to pose serious problems in relation to the organization of security within the states. The reason is that what one state does to ensure its own security very naturally strikes the other as a threat to its own. If that concern for security reaches the point that defense alliances are concluded with an African country other than the peripheral country which is, justifiably, developing anxiety feelings, that is enough to cast a considerable pall over bilateral relations. And it is even worse when a country takes cover under the umbrella of a power or superpower. Fortunately, those umbrellas are available to every country in Africa. But that is far from helping matters.

Arms Race and Diversification of Supply Sources

The conventional opinion is that preparing for war nowadays consists of implementing a strategy of deterrence--that is, of demonstrating to one's opponent in a more or less ostentatious manner the potential reliability of one's forces. That reliability has generally been regarded as a function of the number of forces, the worth of the troops, and the quality and quantity of their weapons and possibly of the weapons they may acquire through special agreements. But while it is difficult to quantify the worth of an army's troops and officers, especially in Africa, the same is not true of the other two parameters of

reliability--that is, number of forces and quality of weapons. In Africa, for very obvious but not very respectable reasons having to do with the policy of arms sales, the industrialized countries publish a great number of more or less specialized magazines in which they candidly announce to the entire continent all the new arms procurements made by African countries and even go so far as to provide sometimes surprising details concerning their armies. When one also considers that SIPRI [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute] in Stockholm and many other organizations fighting for peace also have very good information networks and that they do not hesitate to publish that information periodically, one realizes that in Africa, national defense secrets are a long way from including information on armed forces equipment.

To anyone reading those publications, which are sold practically with no restrictions and in particular to the military, who find in them a valuable source of information on potential enemies, it is becoming increasingly obvious that all African countries are going in for an increasingly extensive modernization of their armies. That modernization is not always in accordance with the noble principles proclaimed.

What is worse, this modernization--under the pretext of freedom of choice and of the need for freedom to maneuver in case of conflict--is being actively encouraged by every arms manufacturer in both the East and the West. But that diversification of arms sources--as was demonstrated in particular by the Falklands experience--guarantees in fact only relative freedom to maneuver. Moreover, it also seems to be a clear indication of will on the part of the country engaging in it to prepare for some vague action that it intends to carry through to the end. Unless it denotes simply a concern for building up a public image. For Africa, even on those terms, it remains a belligerent case.

Law of the Sea

Experts at centers for the study or exploitation of oceans assure us that the sea is a fabulous Ali Baba's cave whose precious riches range from simple fishing to over a dozen or so varieties of wealth, the most notable of which are petroleum (naturally), multimetallic nodules, aquaculture, and biomass. All those things and many others besides have prompted the possessors of technology for prospecting and exploiting marine resources to follow in the footsteps of the Dutchman Grotius, who, in his famous "Mare Liberum," laid down the rule that the fringe of territorial sea should extend for only 3 miles, with the rest being open to all. The Third-World countries have always rejected that idea. In 1958 they succeeded in getting territorial waters extended to 12 miles while yielding to pressure from the big powers and conceding freedom of passage in straits. This only revived the sense of frustration felt by the littoral states, which felt that what they viewed as their national heritage was being encroached upon. As you know, that led to the convening of the famous Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea--which lasted from December 1973 to December 1982.

The results of that interminable conference are certainly fortunate as regards the claims of the Third-World countries. In particular, those countries obtained agreement that beyond the 12-mile limit to territorial waters, an "exclusive economic zone" extending 200 miles from the shore would be delimited

for the coastal states. Each state would have exclusive control over all the resources in its zone. Those are certainly fortunate results, because beyond what has been specifically achieved, an indisputable security system has just been set up: by focusing international public opinion on this issue, it bans any unilateral attempt by a coastal state to extend its territorial waters. But smoldering away below is the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union have understandably rejected any negotiation of the free movement of navies, passage through straits by warships, freedom to carry out naval maneuvers, and passage through exclusive economic zones as well as the crossing of archipelago waters. In other words, only territorial waters are off limits in principle to foreign warships. We say "in principle" because those ships are allowed what is called innocent passage--that is, peaceful passage with no aggressive manifestations and without prior notice. All of that seems clear to the Third-World countries when it is a question of warships from the big powers, for reasons that are very obvious even if they do seem questionable. But--and let us remain in Africa--would it be equally clear if the warships in question were from one of the continent's coastal or archipelago states? The Buddha said: "Questions are much more important than answers." And this question deserves to be put to the conscience of an Africa where the delimitation of land and sea frontiers is far from being a unanimously settled issue among the states sharing those frontiers. With the new Law of the Sea, things do not seem particularly likely to improve, especially among African countries: between continental states with common borders, between coastal continental states and archipelagos, and so on.

Arrival of Atomic Weapons

Strategists and other observers of the international scene or simply of East-West relations are more or less unanimous, considering the frantic efforts by the two blocs to achieve strategic parity and what they call the nuclear stand-off, in ruling out the probability of major armed conflicts. They are also in general agreement in maintaining that the so-called secondary geographic spaces are going to catch more and more of the spray from the stormy and contradictory ideological waves from the East and the West and that conflicts are going to crystallize constantly in the economic--and ideological--spheres. It must be admitted that the facts seem to back them up, because while the artillery has indeed been silent in the East and the West since 1945, it has practically not stopped thundering elsewhere, especially in Africa, since that year. Even in the eyes of Africans, therefore, nuclear weapons appear to be the preeminent instrument of deterrence.

The only problem is that whereas there was a time when only a nuclear war between the superpowers or between the NATO and Warsaw Pact blocs was considered possible, it is felt that that is no longer exactly the case today. There are not only nuclear powers of secondary importance in existence today, but also countries sufficiently rich, even in Africa, and capable of acquiring nuclear technology all the more easily in that the current diversity of nuclear weaponry ranges from grenades to sophisticated rockets with multiple warheads. Are nuclear weapons a lure for Africa or just a mirage?

Conclusion

Despite the residual crises dotting the existence of the OAU, it is indisputable that Africa as a whole is resolutely attached to pursuit of the indispensable peace on which its unity and development depend.

But while it is noted that in the field of development, Africa shows realism in sizing up the efforts required to achieve, as best it can and through regional or subregional solidarity, the goals it has set for itself, one must admit with equal frankness that it is not putting as much enthusiasm as is desirable into reflecting on the problems of peace.

It seems indisputable, however, that all the states on the continent "are preparing for war because they want peace." But preparation for war nowadays depends on an unavoidable precondition: the assessment of situations likely to engender conflicts.

Pope John Paul II said recently:

"Today it is necessary that peace be built like a cathedral and that each one bring his stone." The idea of each one bringing his stone for the building of peace in Africa suggests in particular that a careful inventory should be made of what may divide the countries of Africa from each other and from countries on other continents. I believe that doing so will provide everyone with the additional light needed for a specifically African concept of defense.

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CSO: 3419/117

ANGOLA

SAVIMBI SAYS ANGOLANS DECEIVING U.S. ON CUBANS' DEPARTURE

Pretoria BEELED in Afrikaans 12 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Article by BEELED Reporter Thinus Prinsloo: "Savimbi Says Angola Will Be South Africa's Friend"]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with BEELED Dr Jonas Savimbi made the promise that a new Angolan government, in which the UNITA movement would play a leading role, is going to be more sympathetic toward South Africa than anyone else in Africa.

At his headquarters in Jamba in southern Angola Dr Savimbi talked about his friendship bonds with President P.W. Botha and Minister Pik Botha and the South African help to UNITA. He warned that the MPLA government in Luanda is being deceitful about the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola.

Following a display of forces in the course of a parade in Jamba, where seized Russian tanks were also displayed, the charismatic UNITA leader revealed to some 40 or so newspapermen from all over the world that he is planning a great Christmas offensive against the MPLA government in Luanda. He is prepared to send 7,000 troops as reinforcements to his forces around Luanda. He has also made it clear that UNITA must be included in any of the peace negotiations. If this does not take place, he said that he would avail himself of the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola.

Dr. Savimbi claimed that he has complete control of one third of Angola and that the UNITA forces in the rest of Angola, even up to Luanda itself, are attaining great successes with guerrilla warfare. According to him the situation for the MPLA forces around Luanda is "critical."

After the international press conference Dr Savimbi agreed to have an exclusive talk with BEELED. When asked as to what his attitude vis-a-vis South Africa would be if he were to play a leading role in a new government in Angola, without a moment's hesitation he replied:

"I consider President P.W. Botha and Pik Botha as my friends. This does not mean that they would have to sacrifice their interests; they should defend South Africa's interests."

"They ought to defend South Africa's position as an area power, however, it is a fact that if UNITA plays a leading role in Angola, we will be more sympathetic to the problems of South Africa than anyone else in the continent."

Dr Savimbi's dark eyes penetrate your own when he proceeds to say that after 9 years of "coexisting we understand your concerns as well as your hopes and desires. Therefore we know you better than anyone else in Africa."

His relations with South Africa is not causing any problems with the Western World of Africa.

"We in UNITA appreciate the fact that this year there have been such great steps taken in dialogue (the Nkomati and Lusaka agreements). We encourage the South Africans to continue on the road to dialogue."

"Something that we also greatly appreciate is the President Botha's courage in making a beginning for the inclusion of other groups in power sharing and we are very hopeful that this will be extended to black people."

"We feel that, as a power in this area South Africa has a role to play in conflicts and in post-conflicts."

Dr Savimbi wore his green beret, with the three stars in the center, horizontally on top of his head. It was noticeable that he carried his gleaming Ruger revolver loosely in the holster at his side. The leather strap was not secured so that the revolver could be taken out quickly. It appeared that the bullets in the belt around his waist were of the hollow-point type which leave a big hole where they strike. (Some of his officers, whom he greeted jovially with a powerful handshake, would tell you that during the latest offensive he was in the front lines against their own wishes, doing so because he wants to motivate his men).

Dr Savimbi said that since 1977 UNITA has not been supported by South Africa, but by Arab countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Iran and also by Western countries such as France as well as other countries in Africa.

UNITA has asked South Africa for the logistical support to transport material coming from Arabic countries. South Africa has transported tons of this materiel

Dr Savimbi made it clear that UNITA will not be brought to its knees in the event that the border with south-west Africa is closed, Steps have already been taken for alternative logistic routes.

He has not yet entered into negotiations with leaders in Namibia.

"The situation in Namibia is a difficult one and that is the reason why we have not tried to establish contacts. We are waiting for the situation to clear up."

Dr Savimbi said that the U.S. Department of State must make its position clear, because it is not clear to UNITA to make out what they are doing there. Former

State Secretary Alexander Haig had told him in Jamba that if the Cubans do not depart they must be willing to shed blood. UNITA wants to maintain a strong stand with respect to the Cubans.

UNITA says that there are 40,000 Cubans in the country. At first, U.S. spokesmen were saying the Cubans numbered between 15,000 and 20,000; subsequently they said there are 30,000 of them. Now they are saying that only "combat" troops must leave. This means that intelligence officers, pilots and planning personnel can stay.

UNITA has information that during the past 3 weeks the MPLA government has been bringing in 2,500 black cubans. "Who is going to tell the difference between black Cubans and black Angolans?"

This shows that they are not negotiating in good faith with the United States. Even while they are talking about the withdrawal of the Cubans they are trying to hide something. UNITA has proof of this.

The MPLA regime is hiding other cards under the table and the United States is not going to like it.

With respect to this, Dr Savimbi pointed out that the MPLA government is planning to grant citizenship to the Cubans who have served in this country. (This implies that the Cubans would then remain in Angola as would-be Angolan citizens.)

UNITA has intercepted intelligence to the effect that the MPLA government admits that South Africa is no longer a threat to it. UNITA is the threat and the reason why they want to keep the Cubans in the country.

Dr Savimbi said that UNITA wants to be a part of the peace arrangements so that there will not be any "complications." It is in the interest of those who are negotiating for peace (in the south-west Africa-Angola dispute) to include UNITA.

During the parade in Jamba in which 1,000 UNITA troops took part and was attended by 8,000 UNITA supporters three Bulgarian citizens who were captured in Angola were released.

The three Bulgarians are not waiting for the Red Cross to help them get out of the country. Two MPLA officers and a Cuban soldier who went to UNITA were also shown to the international press group. The Cuban said that the morale of the Cubans is very low.

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CSO: 3401/15

SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISIT

Arrival in Luanda

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 6 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] A delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, invited to participate in the commemoration of the ninth anniversary of Angola's independence, has been in Luanda since yesterday afternoon.

Headed by Orudjev Telmonk, member of the Communist Party's Central Committee in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and minister of horticultural economy, the group was received at 4 February International Airport by Coelho da Cruz, president of the Angolan League for Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples [LAASP].

Remaining in Angola until 12 November, the Soviet party delegation will hold work sessions with department heads of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party and secretaries of the Angolan Youth Movement, the OMA [Angolan Women's Organization] and UNITA.

Yesterday, the delegation was scheduled to be received by Lucio Lara, secretary of the party's Central Committee for Organization.

The visit of the Soviet delegation to the People's Republic of Angola is also in keeping with an exchange of experiences between the CPSU and the MPLA-Labor Party which, on this occasion, covered social organization and subjects relating to the masses.

The delegation's sojourn in our country includes a vast program of activities which will take it to Huila Province where, in addition to matters of a party nature, it will observe the realities of other sectors of Angolan society.

Schedule of Activities

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 7 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan is now in Luanda to commemorate "Soviet Union Days" and participate in ceremonies in honor of the anniversary of RPA's independence.

As part of the schedule of events to be carried out within the scope of the activities performed by the Angolan League for Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples and in keeping with the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the Angolan and Soviet peoples, an art exposition was put on yesterday at the headquarters of the UNAP [National Union of Artist Associations] on which an illustrated article is given elsewhere in our newspaper.

One of the highlights of the delegation's program is a visit to the sarcophagus of Comrade President Dr Agostinho Neto as well as a trip to the mausoleum dedicated to the founder of the nation and party.

Various meetings will be held with leaders of the MPLA-Labor Party and visits will be made to a number of points of interest in Luanda before the friendly delegation returns to Moscow on 12 November.

Meeting With Writers

At the same time, to commemorate the victory of the October Socialist Revolution which is now being celebrated throughout the world's progressive community, a meeting will be held at 1830 hours at the headquarters of the Union of Angolan Writers with the Soviet poet, Maiakovski, with recitations by Angolan poets and with the music of Duo Tshisosi.

In this connection, invitations have already been extended to all music and poetry lovers to attend the meeting at which discussion will center around relevant concepts and topics.

Departure of Soviet Delegation

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] The Soviet delegation, headed by Telman Khalil Orudjev, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Azerbaijan, minister of industry for fruits and vegetables and deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in Azerbaijan, has now ended the visit it made to Angola.

During the visit the Soviet delegation met with Evaristo Domingos Kimba, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party and minister of provincial coordination and of agriculture, and took part in the ceremonies held in Angola to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution which occurred in the USSR and the 9th anniversary of RPA's proclamation of independence.

It should be mentioned that, during its sojourn in Angola, the USSR delegation placed a wreath on the sarcophagus of President Agostinho Neto, founder of the nation and of the MPLA-Labor Party.

8568

CSO: 3442/98

DOS SANTOS SENDS MESSAGE TO CHERNENKO

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 10 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and People's Republic of Angola, sent Konstantine Chernenko, secretary of the CPSU and president of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the following telegram:

"Upon the commemoration of the 67th anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, I am using this means to convey to you my warmest congratulations on behalf of the Angolan people, the Central Committee of the MPAL-Labor Party and the government of the People's Republic of Angola.

"A total of 67 years has passed since that moment when the revolutionary workers, farmers, soldiers and intellectuals overthrew the power of the middle class and established the first socialist state in Russia, and since then, it has not ceased to increase the number of countries and political forces which adhere to the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

"The application of those principles of creative form to the conditions of the Soviet Union has enabled your great party to transform your country into one of the major world powers and verify the viability of the theory of the proletariat.

"We share in the avowed jubilation of the Soviet people in their celebration of the significant victories they have achieved over imperialism and its agents and the progress they have made in the economic, social, scientific and technical sectors.

"We express to the peoples of the Soviet Union and to the Central Committee of their Communist Party our best wishes for progress and prosperity and reaffirm our strong desire to continue to further the relations of friendship, solidarity and cooperation existing between our peoples, parties and states.

"Accept, Comrade Secretary General, the expression of my esteemed consideration."

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CSO: 3442/96

CLEMENCY GRANTED TO 40 FORMER UNITA MEMBERS IN HUILA

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] A total of 40 compatriots who belonged to the counterrevolutionary group, UNITA, including one "captain," and who on 2 October surrendered voluntarily to the Defense and Security Forces of Cunene Province, received clemency from the Angolan authorities in this city.

These compatriots, who left the jungle accompanied by 30 citizens, did so because of intense disagreements prevalent within that puppet group, particularly with regard to tribalism.

Antonio N'Dufica, one of the individuals who received clemency and who, as a soldier, had taken part in placing mines and staging ambushes, confessed that internal contradictions among the counterrevolutionary traitors and the atrocities which they are committing against defenseless people are the reasons for his abandonment of the group.

N'Dufica also said that strong differences of opinion now exist in both Angola and Namibia between individuals without a country and South Africa inasmuch as the latter intends to stop supporting the policy promulgated by those individuals and inasmuch as it (South Africa) has nothing to gain from the military support it has been giving them.

"Captain" Geraldo Waliuea in turn, who, like the other members involved, carried out his activities in Cunene Province from the counterrevolutionary camp called "Cafima," asserted that there is presently unprecedented disorganization within that puppet faction and that there is therefore a possibility in the near future that hundreds of other counterrevolutionaries will surrender to the Angolan authorities, some of the former already preparing to emerge from the jungle.

Through the news media, Geraldo Waliuea advised his former companions still in the jungle that the information circulating among them to the effect that the Angolan authorities are killing the exiled members who voluntarily surrender is completely false, and he appealed to all his fellow citizens actively serving in UNITA to surrender in order to participate in national reconstruction.

In his appeal, Geraldo Waliuea was particularly addressing the puppets of the camps known as "Cafima," and "Kubango," located respectively in the provinces of Kunene and Kwando-Kubango where he himself operated; he was specifically appealing to "Colonel" Zeferino, "Captain" Bula and an "aspirant" known as Kalupeteca to abandon the senseless struggle which is basically being carried on to the detriment of his own people and family members, and he concluded with the observation that "independence is achieved only once."

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CSO: 3442/96

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES OAU SUMMIT MEETING

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 14 Nov 84 p 9

[Text] The president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, gave the following address at the 20th Summit Meeting of the Organization of African Unity yesterday.

Mr President and chiefs of state and government:

It is a reason for great satisfaction for the Angolan delegation to be gathered together here at this 20th OAU Summit Meeting, precisely in the country where, 20 years ago, inspired by some of the most worthy sons of Africa, our continental organization, which throughout these two decades has been skillfully overcoming the obstacles encountered on the path toward the liberation of Africa, was established with clearly defined goals.

I cannot fail to stress the undeniable merit of the founders of the organization and of the heroes, both late and living, who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom, and whose example continues to inspire us to pursue the battle without quarter until the complete decolonization of our continent is achieved.

Twenty years have passed and it therefore seems obvious to us that we have accumulated sufficient experience to differentiate between secondary contradictions and primary ones, such as to avoid the weakening of the organization which could lead to its early demise. It is important then that we redefine our goals and how to achieve them, so that the OAU will not become a stage on which interests alien to those of the continent clash, but rather a rallying point for ideas and actions which can lead us to carry out our historic mission with more dynamism and tenacity.

Despite the successes achieved by the peoples on the continent in the 20 years the OAU has existed, we must admit that we have experienced moments of serious crisis, in which our capacity to safeguard the organization has been put to the test by all of those who in one way or another evidenced their skepticism about our political maturity and our competence, delighted to seize upon the slightest failing in order to revive their hope of a return to Africa in a paternalistic move designed to demonstrate the need for neocolonization. Therefore, we bear the collective responsibility to prevent any breach in our ranks which would encourage the interference and intervention of the imperialists, creating instead images which give prestige and dignity to Africa and to the Africans.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the dedicated fashion in which Haile Marien, the outgoing acting President of the OAU, has focused all of his energy and wisdom on making possible the holding of this summit meeting, of which we expect the achievements needed to revitalize the principles of African unity and fraternity. The objective and brilliant analysis of the main problems facing Africa and the militant political positions adopted in his report constitute a valuable contribution to the work of this summit meeting.

On behalf of the delegation accompanying me and for my own part, I wish to offer the most sincere thanks to the people of Ethiopia and its government for the hospitality accorded to us.

To all of the delegations participating in this conference, and thanks to which its holding has been made possible, I want to voice greetings and to wish you the best success in our work.

Mr. President:

Your unanimous election to direct the destiny of our organization is the most eloquent proof of the prestige, sympathy and admiration you enjoy, thanks to your own merit, on our continent. Your experience, personal virtues and wisdom make us absolutely certain that you will carry out your task with success. I congratulate you for having responded to the desire of the member nations by accepting this mandate, and I wish you the best of success.

The participation of the People's Republic of Angola in this summit meeting comes just one day after the celebration of the ninth anniversary of our independence, to achieve which the Angolan people had to travel a long and winding path in the process of the armed struggle we waged against Portuguese colonialism for 14 years. These were 14 years of triumphant war by the people, led by the MPLA, during which the Western powers and the regime in South Africa always took the side of colonialism, both on the battlefield and on the international scene.

As you know, the People's Republic of Angola has since the initial proclamation of its independence lived in the shadow of a war imposed upon us by the imperialists, through racist South Africa, which has hindered and even threatened the harmonious achievement of our development programs and the resulting satisfaction of the legitimate desires of the Angolan people.

There have thus been 23 consecutive years in which the Angolan people have not known peace, added to the 5 centuries of cruel colonization and unfettered exploitation.

The Angolan People's Republic occupies an important geographic position on the continent, and the independent path it has freely chosen for its development naturally collides with the various interests of the imperialists pertaining to our economic potential, which the great capitalist powers have been accustomed to exploiting with ease and without benefit to our people. It is within this context that they use every available resource, including armed aggression, to

change the normal course of the history of our country, now irreversible, in their favor.

The Angolan people are aware of the price of their hard-won freedom, and as such, they have an exact idea of how dear it is to the people living under the colonial yoke, subject to all of the forms of exploitation, humiliation and injustice.

For this reason and for others related to the humanistic essence of the society we are building at the cost of tremendous sacrifice willingly made, we are pursuing a consistent internationalist policy, giving aid in many forms to the peoples who are still struggling to achieve their independence and dignity.

However, this position of principle is not pursued in linear fashion on our continent, and it therefore carries with it consequences with regard to which each of us must assume his responsibilities.

For a number of years, the serious situation in southern Africa, where the last bastions of colonialism and racism still stand, has been pushed to the background, despite the fact that this is regarded as one of the tensest zones in the world. The countries which are neighbors of racist South Africa have turned around and find themselves still at grips with an undeclared war of aggression which is now taking the form of direct military intervention, the form of utilizing armed gangs to destroy political, military, economic and social stability.

In view of the hesitation of the organization and the continent, and their inability to act as a whole, the countries in the region have been forced to act in isolation, seeking original solutions consistent with their domestic interests. The time then has come to analyze the situation in southern Africa as a function of its importance and seriousness, so that we can rise above the rhetoric attitude in support of the countries being attacked and the liberation movements.

The conflict developing in southern Africa is a result of the expansionist efforts of South Africa, which is seeking, through the use of its powerful military, economic and financial resources, to gain positions on the continent favoring the establishment of its hegemony. The danger this action poses to the safeguarding of the sovereignty of each of the countries on the continent should constitute a cause of concern. It suffices to mention that the capacity to produce nuclear weaponry developed in South Africa already constitutes a threat to the peoples on our continent, which all of us want denuclearized.

On the pretext that its opponent is the SWAPO, South African forces are systematically invading the People's Republic of Angola, thus causing our country tremendous losses in human life and material damage of incalculable value. These violations of our sovereignty and territorial integrity culminated in the occupation of a part of our territory, beginning in 1981, after the great invasion perpetrated at that time, which was followed later by other acts of aggression.

Parallel with this direct military intervention, and using as supplements other forces whose operations it directs, the regime in South Africa has sent armed UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs into areas north of those occupied, dropping them on various regions from planes at night, and also dropping weapons, ammunition and food supplies by parachute. It is important to note that in the specific case of Angola, South Africa has placed its bet on Jonas Savimbi's UNITA as an alternative to the legitimate government of the People's Republic of Angola, even going so far as to invite that leader to attend the official inauguration ceremonies for Pieter Botha. This in itself perhaps would not have been scandalous had Savimbi not made it a point, through his presence there, to flaunt before Africa and the world the alliance he has established with the most inhumane regime on our planet.

In view of these facts, we believe that there can be no further doubt as to the concept of liberation advocated by Savimbi, and it is for this reason that we were wholly amazed at the silence maintained in Africa concerning this unprecedented event, since what we are faced with is a betrayal of the interests of all of independent Africa, consummated in an alliance of a so-called African with what our organization has declared to be the number one enemy of all of Africa.

Mr President:

In order to provide some idea of the true dimensions of South African aggression in our country, I will provide certain figures to illustrate the scope of the damage done to the Angolan economy.

1. The attack on the Lumaum hydroelectric plant in the province of Benguela, in June 1983, and again in July 1984, leaving the cities of Benguela and Lobito, of vital economic importance to our country, without electricity.
2. The sabotage of the Gulf Oil Company installations in Cabinda.
3. The sabotage of two freighters transporting foods and other goods to the various civilian sectors for national reconstruction, in Luanda Bay on 30 July 1984.
4. The blowing up of fourteen Benguela Railroad locomotives in Lobito in September 1984, using mines manufactured in Israel.
5. The sabotage of the high tension towers carrying electricity to Luanda, leaving the capital city without light and water for 4 days.

All of these are facts which reveal the implementation of a strategic plan by racist South Africa with a view to completely destroying stability in the People's Republic of Angola.

Mr President:

The methods of destroying stability used by South Africa are identical in all

of the countries in the region, leading us to believe that they are part of an overall strategic plan with very board goals.

Terrorist acts against civilian populations, the sabotage of main transportation routes, ports, electrical power plants, fuel stores and transport vehicles, armed attacks on military objectives and disinformation campaigns could only be the first phase of such a plan, designed to weaken the established state and, through such military and political pressure, to force all of the neighboring countries to accept a modus vivendi, thus establishing a national security belt around South Africa.

It is logical to conclude that after overwhelming its adversaries with military superiority, the next step to be taken by the regime in Pretoria will be the elimination of diplomatic isolation and expansion of the economic, tehcnical and scientific links and trade transaccations, which would extend from firm foundations in the southern region to the whole continent, eliminating the competition from Western Europe and the United States of America. Only the puppet governments in South Africa would be allowed into this somber picture.

To summarize, Mr President, an analysis of the situation leads us to the conclusion that the regime in Pretoria is seeking to perpetuate apartheid and to exercise political, military, economic and social domination over the southern region, with an expansionist eye on the entire continent.

Mr President:

I think that this strategy would be feasible if the foundations of the struggle against apartheid were not to be found within South Africa itself. The apartheid system itself is such as to give rise to acute antagonistic contradictions, placing all of the oppressed on one side in opposition to the dominant class. Under these circumstances, superficial constitutional amendments can never be the remedy for the mass struggle all of the oppressed and exploited South African people are waging within South Africa. It is profound changes within the political system which the situation requires if democracy, racial harmony, social justice and peace are to be established. The resolution of the problem of apartheid will liberate the world from the threat posed by a dangerous focus of tension.

It is important, then, to know what Africa and our organization will do to support this heroic struggle, led on the highest level by the ANC, representatives of which are here in this august assembly. The importance of this organization to mankind is so obvious that it has already been reiterated a number of times and in various ways. Angola has always evidenced its solidarity with the struggle of the brotherly poeple of South Africa being waged by the ANC.

Angola also continues firmly to express its solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of the SWAPO, and it is not only making vast sacrifices for the cause of this struggle, but also is consistently dedicated to the search for ways of eliminating the hindrances to the application of United Nations Security Council Resolution No 435 to the impasse which exists. Within this context, it has made an effort to contribute to peace in

southern Africa and to independence in Namibia. At the 19th Summit Meeting, a detailed report was submitted by the Angolan delegation on the compromise arranged in Lusaka with South Africa, and for this reason I do not want to repeat what has already been said, since I know that your time is precious. However, I deem it important to stress that:

1. The People's Republic of Angola accepted the Lusaka agreement after the SWAPO had been informed of and agreed to it. Thus it does not seek to avoid its responsibilities as an African country with regard to the liberation of the continent. Quite the contrary, it has sought to contribute to it.
2. This agreement had as its main goal the withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory, as a first step in the direction of implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution No 435/78.

In view of the situation created by Angola's insistence, the government of South Africa had to establish direct contact with the SWAPO for the first time, with a view to arranging a cease-fire agreement which would pave the way for the implementation of Resolution No 435/78.

However, because the withdrawal of the South African forces from Angola was not carried out within the specified time, because of the failure of the talks between the SWAPO and the regime in Pretoria and the dilatory maneuvers of the latter, and also with a view to contributing to a solution of the Namibian problem, the Angolan government initiated new diplomatic steps in the direction of greater flexibility in the application of the conditions set forth to the Secretary General of the UN on 26 August 1982 and the joint statements by the governments of Angola and Cuba dated 4 February 1982 and 19 March 1984.

Thus it provided the American government with a platform containing the basis for discussion of an overall agreement concerning the security of Angola and the independence of Namibia, including the following fundamental points:

1. Completion of the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola.
2. Cessation of any type of logistic support to the UNITA puppets, and dismantling of its bases in Namibia.
3. Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution No 435/78.
4. After the withdrawal of the UN forces from Namibia and the reduction of the South African contingent to 1500 infantrymen, Angola and Cuba will begin the gradual reduction of the Cuban internationalist contingent, consistent with the schedule submitted.

This platform contains the basic points in the official positions of the Angolan government on this matter. Thus the governments of the United States of America and South Africa now have yet another opportunity to demonstrate their seriousness in negotiation and whether or not they desire in fact to settle the problems in our region peacefully on the basis of respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of the peoples.

As a result, the report to the effect that the Angolan and American delegations discussed only the question of the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces from Angola is also without any basis.

Let me take this opportunity to inform this august assembly that a more detailed report on this matter will be delivered to the various chiefs of state and government, whom I would like to thank for the moral and diplomatic support they have given the Angolan people.

Thank you very much.

5157

CSO: 3442/92

WORKSHOPS WITH GDR IN MAKARENKO

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by O. Bento]

[Text] The National Day of the People's Republic of Angola [RPA] and that of the German Democratic Republic were proclaimed at the Makarenko Karl Marx Student Complex at a ceremony presided over by Augusto Lopes Teixeira, Angolan minister of education, and the accredited GDR ambassador in Angola.

The ceremony was partly political, partly recreational, and it served to illustrate the bonds of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation existing between the two countries and peoples.

During the political portion Education Minister Augusto Teixeira and GDR's accredited ambassador in Angola received certificates placing them in the category of honorary members of the RPA-GDR Friendship Club which had arranged the festivities.

Concerning the honor received, the minister of education exclaimed that this distinction is in keeping with the initiatives being made to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, particularly in the areas of education and teaching. This opinion was corroborated by the German ambassador in Angola who, through this gesture, expressed his gratitude to the directorate of the complex, professors and students who comprise the friendship club.

The political part of the ceremony also included a speech by the head of the complex's German professorial group in which he briefly traced the long road taken by the GDR during its 35 years of existence, the difficulties confronted and the successes achieved in all areas.

The director of the student complex also addressed those present and, during his short discourse, also recalled the events which made the 11 November affair possible; he then spoke of education and teaching and asserted that this sector should keep pace with changes being made in our society. In conclusion, he expressed his regret at the separation

still existing between the school and the community and called for the need to dignify the teaching profession, presently still far from having a desirable status.

At the end of the first part of the ceremony, Ferreira Bastos, director of the complex, received a gold medal for the contribution he has made to the RPA-GDR Friendship Club. For the same reason, silver medals were awarded to Prof Alexandre Ngaca and student Teresa Henda by the same club. Then came the recreational part of the ceremony featuring the projection of a film on the music and song festival held in the GDR.

8568

CSO: 3442/84

BRIEFS

ADDITIONAL BPV RECRUITS--Two hundred youths recently enlisted in the People's Vigilance Brigades (BPV) in Puri Township, ANGOP has learned from a document of the Uije Provincial Secretariat of the party youth organization, JMPLA. ANGOP further learned that another 247 youths belonging to the peasant youth brigades of the Comandante Jika associations of Puri Township have complied with party guidelines for national defense and increased production. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Oct 84 p 3] 12430

NEW HUILA OFFICIALS--Minister of Provincial Coordination Evaristo Domingos "Kimba", a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, has issued a dispatch naming Eduardo de Jesus to the post of deputy municipal commissar for Humpata in Huila Province. Eduardo de Jesus has previously served as deputy municipal commissar for Quilengues, which will now be filled by Jose Carlos Cambambi, according to another dispatch from the minister. Also in Huila Province, Isaac Ricardo has been appointed to the post of deputy municipal commissar of Caconda. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Oct 84 p 3] 12430

ITALIAN AID--Approximately 1,000 tons of pasta and 100 tons of noodle products were delivered last week to Angola in a ceremony attended by the head of the western countries department of the State Secretariat for Cooperation, Mario Amaral. The aid, delivered over by the first secretary of the Italian Embassy in Angola, Goerge Vezette, is a supplement to "food aid 84", granted in fiscal 1983 and ratified at the last meeting of the Angolan-Italian joint commission, held in December. This past August, some 10,000 tons of rice were also delivered to the Angolan Government. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 9 Oct 84 p 2] 12430

CUBAN-ANGOLAN YOUTH MEETING--In preparation for the first all-day rally of friendship and solidarity between Angolan and Cuban youth, a meeting was held Friday between the second National Secretary of the JMPLA-Party Youth, Angela Braganca, and the first Secretary of the UJC, Union of Communist Youth in Angola, Roberto Pavia. Angela Braganca stated at the meeting that the objective of the planned rally will be

ro deepen and strengthen the unity and fighting solidarity between the peoples and youth of Angola and Cuba in the struggle against imperialism, for peace and social progress. Thus, there will be 80 Angolan and Cuban young people participating from the national organizations of the UJC and JMPLA Party Youth. Angela Braganca used the occasion to exhort all young people to participate actively in solidarity rallies, both at school and at work. Roberto Pavia in turn stressed the importance of the event having expressed solidarity and fighting unity between both organizations and peoples. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 7 Oct 84 p 2] 12430

SOVIET YOUTH REAFFIRM SUPPORT--Moscow--The First National Secretary of the Agostinho Neto Pioneers Organization (OPA), Goncalves Muandumba, expressed his gratitude on Monday in this city for the varied support that the Lenin Pioneers Organization of the USSR has extended to the OPA. During his meeting with the president of the Lenin Pioneers organization of the USSR, as part of his visit to several socialist countries, opinions were exchanged on collaboration between the respective organizations, the Soviet official expressing on that occasion the readiness of the organization he heads to continue supporting the OPA. The president of the Lenin Pioneers Organization referred further to the solidarity of the USSR pioneers toward the Angolan people, especially the children and Angolan pioneers in the struggle against the work of internal and external enemies. Goncalves Muandumba also met in Moscow with the general secretary of USSR youth organizations, during which they reviewed the relations of friendship and collaboration existing between the JMPLA-Party Youth and the Leninist Komsomol. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 10 Oct 84 p 3] 12430

KWANZA SUL COMMISSARS SHIFTED--The Minister of Provincial Coordination, Evaristo Domingos (Kimba), in various dispatches has shifted several positions in his ministry. Municipal commissars removed from their positions were Paulo da Conceicao from Waco-Kungo and Jose Valemtime dos Santos from Porto Amboim, as well as Mateus Sebastiao from the post of deputy municipal commissar for Lubango. In other routine appointments, Paulo da Cunha was named to fill the post of municipal commissar for Porto Amboim and Andre Paulino was named deputy municipal commissar for Sumbe. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 6 Oct 84 p 3] 12430

OIL DRILLING PROSPECTS--The Angola Oil Services Company (ESPA) should drill its first well on the Angolan continental shelf in the first quarter of 1985, if all conditions are met, ANGOP has learned from the management of Sonangol. Recently created by signature of an agreement encompassing the Braspetro, Petrofina, and Sonangol companies, ESPA's attentions are being focused on the extraction of crude, a productive activity extending also to financial investments with a view toward setting up adequate infrastructures for work of this kind. In this context, both Braspetro as well as Petrofina and British Petroleum expect to invest 20 million dollars each in the next three years.

Braspetro, for example, is currently pumping 12,000 barrels a day from the Essungo field in the Congo river basin, in conjunction with Texaco, Total and Sonangol. According to the same source contacted by ANGOP, a very promising field is that of East Lombo, which is to undergo exploration starting the first quarter of next year. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 16 Oct 84 p 2] 12430

COUNTRY JOINS IFAD--Through a resolution inserted in DIARIO DA REPUBLICA, the Permanent Committee of the Popular Assembly approves the participation of the People's Republic of Angola [RPA] in the agreement to establish the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The IFAD agreement, adopted in Rome on 13 June 1976, is aimed at accumulating and supplying additional financial resources for the agricultural development of member nations. To accomplish this objective, the "fund" furnishes financial assistance principally for projects and programs specifically aimed at establishing, developing or improving food production systems and strengthening policies and institutions within the framework of national priorities and strategies, taking into account the need to increase that production in countries which are experiencing greater food shortages. Another objective is to increase the potential for additional production in other developing countries as well as to point out the importance of improving the nutritional level and living conditions of the poorer classes in developing countries. This participation is also in keeping with RPA's foreign policy which is oriented around the struggle for the establishment of a new international order among all nations, that is, the inauguration of a new International Economic Order based on mutual respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and other norms and principles of contemporary international law spelled out in the "UN Charter." [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Nov 84 p 3] 8568

CZECHOSLOVAK WOMEN CONGRATULATE OMA--Through a communique, the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Women's Union congratulated the Angolan Women's Organization [OMA] on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of RPA's independence. The communique asserts that the women of that country will continue to support the efforts of the Angolan women to preserve the revolutionary triumphs achieved in connection with the new progressive society. The message reads in part as follows: "The women of Czechoslovakia resolutely condemn all attempts by racist South Africa and any internal reactionary forces which, with the aid of international imperialism, are seeking to destroy the independence and progressive involvement of our country." The communique ends with these words: "Accept, dear Angolan comrades, the complete assurance

of our firm solidarity and assistance in your activities for a better and happier life for Angolan women and children and for peace and friendship among nations." [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Nov 84 p 3] 8568

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA--"Economic and trade relations between Angola and Yugoslavia are not commensurate with the political relations between the two countries." This statement was made by Ivan Senk, director of the Yugoslav exposition at the Luanda International Fair, at a press conference held at the FICOM [International Trade Fair] devoted to Yugoslav Day. Nevertheless, the director of the Yugoslav pavilion said that trade between his country and the RPA might exceed \$30 million in 1985, the amount achieved by the two countries in 1980. He went on to say that the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia has given the RPA a line of credit totaling \$50 million for investments and \$15 million for the import of essential goods. Twelve Yugoslav companies are represented at the Luanda International Fair, occupying an area of 400 square meters under cover and 120 square meters out in the open. Among other things, the Yugoslav companies are exhibiting agricultural machinery, clothing, furniture, medicines and foodstuffs. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Nov 84 p 2] 8568

CSO: 3442/84

FRANCE SIGNS HYDRAULIC PROJECT FINANCING AGREEMENT

Cotonou EHUZU in French 1 Nov 84 p 8

[Article by I. M. L.]

[Text] A financing convention involving a total credit of Fr CFA 1,250 million was signed yesterday in Cotonou between Benin and France. Signing for Benin was comrade Hospice Antonio, Minister of Finance and Economy, and for France M Jacques Besnier, director of the CCCE [Central Economic Cooperation Fund].

The funds made available by the CCCE are intended for carrying out the Bour-gou-Nord hydraulic project, which provides for drilling of 240 wells in the rural districts of Gogounou, Kandi, Segbana, Banikoara, Karimama, and Malanville in the course of 12 months.

Comrade Hospice Antonio, surrounded by his technical staff, declared at the close of the signing ceremony that "the People's Republic of Benin appreciates the efforts of the CCCE to stem the tide of misery in our provinces." He expressed the wish that initiatives by the French financial institution might multiply in the agricultural and industrial sectors with a view to "improving the quality of life for our rural populations."

M Besnier, for his part, stressed the constant concern of the CCCE to further the economic and social development of the People's Republic of Benin by taking action in fields given priority status by the government. He indicated that by giving its approval to this project the CCCE wished to respond at the same time to the appeal by the UN, which is designating the years 1981-1990 as the potable water decade.

In conclusion, he recalled that the present agreement brings to Fr CFA 13 billion the total sum granted in financing loans to the People's Republic of Benin by the CCCE in the past 5 years.

Finally, we point out that this CCCE loan is repayable in 30 years with a 10-year extension.

BRIEFS

LIBYAN ENVOY ON CHAD--Comrade Romain Vilon Guezo, interim head of state, held an audience 19 September with brother Said Hafiena, special envoy of the leader of the Libyan revolution, Col Mu'ammr Qadhafi. Brother Said Hafiena, who was accompanied by brother Omar Sreka, deputy secretary of the people's bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, was presented to the presidential staff by comrade Frederic Affo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. In a statement to the press, brother Said Hafiena indicated that the purpose of his mission to the People's Republic of Benin was to inform our great comrade in arms of recent developments in the Chadian situation. "Since Benin is an ardent defender of the independence and freedom of African countries and peoples, we think it can play a role in that situation," brother Hafiena added. Speaking of the relationship of amity, brotherhood, and cooperation linking the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and our country, the People's Republic of Benin, brother Said emphasized the "frankness" with which the leader of the Libyan revolution and our great comrade in arms are addressing the "problems related to independence, freedom, integrity and peace in Africa." Excerpt Cotonou BENIN-PRESSE-INFORMATION in French No 357, 358, 21, 28 Sep 84 pp 2-3/ 6145

NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM COOPERATION--Comrade Romain Vilon Guezo conferred on 19 September with a Norwegian government delegation led by Mr Arild Rodland, secretary of state for petroleum and energy. The delegation also included Mrs Eivind Reiten, secretary of state for finance, and Mr Hans Henrik Ramm, special advisor to the finance minister. The chief of the Norwegian delegation emphasized to the press that the purpose of their mission to our country is to assess existing cooperation between Benin and Norway, a cooperation which, as he pointed out, operates through Saga Petroleum, a Norwegian group engaged in prospecting and developing Benin's oil resources. Mr Arild Rodland further declared that Beninese is an important element in Benin's national economy, and one capable of transforming the character of cooperation between the two countries. In that connection he emphasized that "the presence of a Beninese delegation in Norway while a Norwegian delegation is in Cotonou indicates the day-by-day improvement in Beninese-Norwegian cooperation." Excerpt Cotonou BENIN-PRESSE-INFORMATION in French No 357, 358, 21, 28 Sep 84 pp 3-4/ 6145

ALGERIAN RICE DONATION--Before his final departure from the People's Republic of Benin at the end of a two-year stay marked by frequent positive gestures of friendship and active cooperation, M Mohamed El Moustapha Maiza, ambassador of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, on behalf of his government, presented to the peoples of Benin and Nigeria, severely struck by drought, a gift of 1,000 tons of rice. On that occasion the Algerian ambassador took the opportunity to recall the bonds of friendship which link the People's Republic of Benin and the Republic of Niger to his country.
[Text] [Cotonou LA CROIX in French Aug 84 p 2] 6145

CHINESE MEDICAL AID--Under cooperation agreements between our two countries, the People's Republic of China has made a donation of medicines to the People's Republic of Benin. The donation, valued at Fr CFA 37,170,000, consists of 16.5 tons of medicines including antibiotics, "anthalgics," and anti-inflammation medications, as well as technical equipment, all intended for the medical facilities at Natitingou and Kandi, where Chinese missions are operating. At the presentation ceremony His Excellency Sun Shiceng [as published] pointed out that this is the second consignment of medicines and medical equipment donated by his country to the People's Republic of Benin in 1984. He then thanked our great comrade in arms, President Mathieu Kerekou, and the government and people of Benin, for the solicitude and support enjoyed by the Chinese medical team in our country. He took occasion to hail the friendly and cooperative relations between the People's Republic of China and Benin, and to express his wishes for their further development.
[Excerpts] [Cotonou EHUZU in French 30 Oct 84 pp 1, 8] 6145

LIBYAN TELEVISION INDUSTRY GIFT--Brother Mohamad Al Mabruk, secretary of the peoples' committees managing Libyan public services, on 3 October presented to comrade Ali Houdou, minister of information and communications, two television reporting vans donated by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The first van is 10.30 m long and 3 m high. It is equipped with a complete television control system including three large cameras permitting simultaneous recording at several ranges, together with a light camera. It has an operating radius of 20 km and will allow Beninese television viewers to watch documentary broadcasts both live and taped. The second van is 7.10 m long and equipped with an electric generator to provide power for the recording van, and carries also a complete lighting system. The total value of the gift is Fr CFA 868,111,600. On the occasion of its presentation the heads of the Libyan and Beninese delegations paid tribute to the excellent relations, marked by friendship and active cooperation, which link the two countries. They both expressed the wish that those ties may continue for the development of the ideologies and civilizations of the Libyan and Beninese peoples. [Text] [Cotonou BENIN-PRESSE-INFORMATION in French No 359, 5 Oct 84 p 2] 6145

PROGRESS ON RWEGURA HYDROELECTRIC PLANT PROJECT

Bujumbura LE RENOUVEAU DU BURUNDI in French 31 Oct 84 pp 1-2

[Article by Serge Gahungu]

[Text] The energy-independence of our country is no longer a dream. The speed with which construction work is proceeding on the Rwegura hydroelectric plant--with a power output of 18 MW [megawatts]--is proof of this. An observer dropping in on the work site and hearing it said the civil engineering work--under contract with the STRABAG [expansion unknown] company--is very well along should not be surprised, especially if he learns that construction is proceeding on the basis of a 24-hour workday.

The construction of this hydroelectric power plant on the Kitenge River is a major project, on which "the work started in July 1983 will be completed, in accordance with current projections, in September 1986," it was indicated by the manager of the project, Mr Anatole Kanyenkiko, an engineer with the REGIDESO [Water and Power Distribution Administration]. The project is proceeding on the basis of several contracts covering: Civil engineering work, the electrical and mechanical portion of the project, the sluice system and the penstock.

The backfill of the dam is 25-percent complete, Mr Kanyenkiko indicated. Actually, the deviation of the river, for the construction of the rock-fill dam, was completed in March 1984. The river now flows into a sluiceway (already operational since March 1984), which is a tunnel 318 meters long and 2.4 meters in diameter.

The next work tackled and completed in August 1984 was the excavation (earthwork) for the dam. Work for the spillway (a tunnel that will be able to evacuate up to 40 cubic meters per second under flood conditions), is almost completed (110 meters of 120 meters of work involved have been completed). The reservoir will cover an area of approximately 2.6 square kilometers; the total capacity of the reservoir will be about 24 million cubic meters of water.

The trench for the intake duct, which will be 2,400 meters long and 2.40 meters in diameter, has been excavated over a length of 1,900 meters. The coffer and concrete work will begin very shortly.

Excavation work for the surge tank (a tower 77 meters deep and 3 meters in diameter) is finished.

The contract for the penstock (length 1,984 meters) and the valves was awarded to NEYRPIC [expansion unknown], a French enterprise, in April 1983. The valves are still being manufactured; the steel tubing, however, is due to arrive any moment. Assembly of the penstock will commence around the beginning of 1985. STRABAG is already preparing the access roads to the penstock and is at the same time scraping and leveling the ground at the site for the latter.

STRABAG is presently preparing the platform for the generating plant (the power station). The contract for the furnishing and installation of the electrical and mechanical equipment was awarded to the VOITHSCHORSCH [expansion unknown] group. Design work has already been completed, and procurement of materials is under way for the start of its fabrication.

As an adjunct to the "Rwegura Project," it is planned to build two transmission lines: Rwegura-Bujumbura and Rwegura-Kayanza-Ngozi. The contract for the first of these was awarded to the GTME [expansion unknown] company in June 1984; 80 percent of the equipment is now on site and 40 pylons have already been installed. The line will be some 53 kilometers long and will operate at 110 kilovolts. It will be ready in July 1985. Part of the equipment for the second line has arrived; assembly work will begin in January 1985 and will be completed by the end of the same year. This will be a 30-kilovolt line; it will be installed by REGIDESO.

Financing, Mr Kanyenkiko said, will be provided by the KFW [expansion unknown] of the ADB [African Development Bank], by the Kuwaiti Fund, by the EDF [European Development Fund], by the CCCE [Central Fund for Economic Cooperation] and by the Burundi Government.

The construction of the Rwegura hydroelectric power plant is a major project; its total work site covers a distance of around 15 kilometers. The first section of this project--which is being built by STRABAG--employs 45 expatriate personnel, 350 local laborers, 10 national project management employees and 10 expatriate project management employees. The organization of the work allows this personnel to work assiduously 24 hours a day and under good workplace conditions.

9399

CSO: 3419/121

CAPE VERDE

BRIEFS

AID FROM STUDENTS ABROAD--Each Cape Verdian student in the Republic of Cuba will contribute 10 percent of his or her scholarship for the purchase of medicines which will subsequently be sent to our country. They will go to aid victims of the torrential rains and storms which pounded the country last September. According to reports received in our editorial office, this decision was approved at a general assembly of the Organization of Cape Verdian Students (OECV), at which the Cape Verdian charg d'affaires in Havana, Armindo Cruz, presided. [Excerpt] [Praia VOZ DI POVO in Portuguese 3 Nov 84 p 5] 5157

CSO: 3442/92

EAST BLOC ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN ETHIOPIA

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG in German 30 Oct 84 p 2.

[Text] Frankfurt. Ethiopia is the focus of economic activity in Africa by Eastern bloc countries. The GDR is helping to develop the country in industry, agriculture, and the public health service system in Ethiopia. At the beginning of October 1984, the GDR and Ethiopia signed an agreement whereby the GDR promised to provide further assistance to aid Ethiopia to industrialize the country and to achieve the new Ethiopian ten year plan (1984-1994). The Soviet Union has undertaken the construction of a large retaining dam with an adjoining power plant and has promised further development aid. Even Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Cuba have become active in Ethiopia.

In September 1984 a cement works having a 1000 ton daily capacity was officially dedicated in Mugher, which is about 100 km west of Addis Ababa. The cement factory has been built by the GDR through the "Ernst Thaelmann" heavy machinery collective combine, VEB [SKET], Magdeburg, and its subsidiary, the Dessau Cement Construction Works VEB.

The electrotechnical plants of the central control station were produced by the Electrical Project and Construction Works VEB, Berlin-Marzahn. Cuban workers have been helping in the construction of the cement factory. To finance these projects the GDR approved credit in the amount of 50 million birr (1 birr = about 1.35 DM). SKET has also undertaken the construction of a large cooking oil factory in Bahr Dar on Lake Tana.

In Combolcha in Wollo, the north east province of Ethiopia, a major textile factory has recently begun production. The combine, Textiles Collective Combine VEB, was the main contractor for its construction.

The textile factory which will process up to 7,000 tons of Ethiopian cotton annually will create about 3,500 new jobs. Once completed, the factory should be able to produce 20 million square meters of fabric annually.

The GDR has delivered several state farm tractors and plows for the cultivation of arable land. The machines are produced by the "Furtschritt" Agricultural Machine Combine VEB, Neustadt (Sachsen). In addition, E512 harvest combines produced by the Singwitz company

have been put into use in Ethiopian agriculture. In the port of Assab on the Red Sea, crane installations of the Takraf crane construction works VEB, Eberswalde, are responsible for increasing transshipment productivity. In Gondar in northwestern Ethiopia, East German medical professionals are training Ethiopian doctors and are active in the medical faculty's clinic.

With assistance from the Soviet Union, a retaining dam with adjoining power plant is presently being constructed in Malka-Wekana on the Wabi Shebele river. Once installed, the power plant's capacity should be 152 megawatts. In the spring of 1984, the Czechoslovakian firm, Skodaexport, received the contract for delivery and installation of the four Francis water turbines and generators. In addition, Skodaexport will deliver equipment to expand the switching station of the power plant. In Assab, the Soviet Union is assisting in the expansion of the only crude oil refinery in Ethiopia. This plant produced 800,000 tons of crude oil in 1982 as compared to 720,000 tons in 1981. Ethiopia buys about 80 percent of its crude oil from the Soviet Union and the rest from Saudia Arabia. The crude oil refinery in Assab was constructed by the Soviet Union in the 1960's.

The Soviet Union approved a long term credit of \$1.8 million for the construction of a factory for tractor assembly and the production of agricultural machinery. In this plant which requires capital investments of \$8.2 million, 1,000 tractors (80 horsepower) and an unnamed number of combine harvesters can be produced annually. This plant, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, began operation in the summer of 1984. Soviet experts had prepared an economic study for this plant.

In the summer of 1984, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia signed a comprehensive economic agreement on cooperation in the areas of agriculture, industry, mining, education, and job training. Consequently, the Soviet Union will intensify its exploration for gold and crude oil deposits, will construct a meat products factory and a textile factory and will help in the expansion of the cement factory in Dire Dawa. In addition, the Soviet Union has undertaken the construction of a retaining dam in the lower Awash Valley in the province of Shoa. From this dam, it will be possible to artificially water 60,000 hectares of arable land. In 1983 the Soviet-Ethiopian exchange of goods increased to 186 million rubles. Ethiopian export to the Soviet Union thereby increased by 36 percent.

Czechoslovakia built three industrial plants which number among the largest in Ethiopia. They include a tire factory, a shoe factory and a tannery and were built about 90 km from Addis Ababa on the banks of the Koki reservoir by the state corporation Investa, Prague. Czechoslovakia is also involved in the construction of the above-named textile factory in Combolcha and is engaged in a brewery project in Harare. Not too long ago, a leather factory built with assistance from Hungary was officially dedicated in Addis Ababa. (BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT, 30.10.84)

12348

CSO: 3420/18

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BRAZIL

Libreville L'UNION in French 28 Sep 84 pp 1,6

[Article by Nelto]

[Text] Gabon, the president of the Republic has said, is "a glass house," indeed an open door to any economic operator coming from a friendly country and desirous of contributing to our development. To this effect, businessmen's missions are visiting our capital, one after the other, in quick succession. In addition to the Spaniards, an official Brazilian delegation of its CEBRAE [Brazilian Small- and Medium-Sized Business Support Center], the equivalent of our PROMOGABON, was in Libreville from 25 to 27 September.

On the basis of the broad outlines of cooperation set forth in the memorandum of agreement signed between Gabon and Brazil on 24 November 1983 with regard to PME [Small- and Medium-Sized Business], and in response to the resolutions set forth in the proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Gabon-Brazil Committee, held in Brazil on 30 July 1984, a Brazilian technical mission of [that country's] PME support system was present in Libreville from 25 to 27 September 1984.

At the conclusion of this visit to Gabon, the Brazilian and Gabonese partners affixed their signatures to a document stipulating the terms and conditions of cooperation in the areas of training, technical aid, industrial cooperation, and exchanges of information between their respective promotional organizations.

This mission had as its objective the setting up of a structure for technical cooperation between the Brazilian and Gabonese systems of aid to PME's. The mission was financed by the UNDP [UN Development Program] under the South-South Cooperation effort.

In addition, the Brazilian enterprise Techno-Metal sent its representative to propose to the Gabonese group a summary study of specific projects concerning the forging of farm tools, of manual tools for industrial and house-

hold use, an iron and steel foundry, a wire-drawing mill, a chain factory, a steel-cable factory, a scrap-iron conversion plant and a screw, nut and bolt factory.

The Brazilian partners are fully prepared to join with the Gabonese in actualizing these units of transformation. The Banco do Brasil S.A. CADEX (a Brazilian bank with a subsidiary in Libreville) has agreed to finance these projects.

Signing of a Memorandum

During its visit, the CEBRAE delegation, headed by Mr Paulo Roberto do Oliveira Niccolo, who is president of the Brazilian PME-support organization was granted an interview with the secretary of state for PME's, Mr Emmanuel Nze Bekale, and shortly thereafter met with the top officials of the Gabonese PME-support system.

At this meeting, a memorandum was signed stipulating the framework of this technical cooperation between the two PME-support systems.

In this memorandum, the parties have agreed to develop their cooperation in the realms of training, technical assistance, industrial cooperation and exchanges of information.

For the Gabonese, the general manager of the PME organization, Mr Essono Mengue, points out, the training sector carries the highest priority, commensurate with the real need for technicians, on the part of the PME Department and PROMOGABON, to attain their objectives. To this effect, the Gabonese have asked their Brazilian counterparts to study, together with them, the possibilities of developing cooperation towards the training of the Gabonese businessmen on the one hand, and of the Ministry's PME officials and officials of the PME-aid organizations on the other hand.

Joint Enterprises

In return, industrial cooperation in the PME sector could lead to the creation of joint enterprises, particularly in the high-priority domains stipulated in the 5th Economic and Social Development Plan (fishing, lumber industry, cattle raising, farming, construction and related projects, repair and maintenance services).

Since the attainment of these principal objectives requires first of all a detailed knowledge of the promotional structures of both countries, the Gabonese and Brazilians are organizing information and survey missions. Mr Essono Mengue acknowledges, of course, that in view of its 12 years of experience and its high standing in Brazil, the Brazilian CEBRAE organization's contribution to the fledgling structure of the Gabonese PME's can be far from negligible.

With regard to the Techno-Metal mission, the general manager of the PME Department referred to the possibility of assisting the Gabonese businessmen to actualize these projects, the preliminary studies for which were financed by the Brazilian Government. He stipulated, however, that these projects would have to conform to the January 1981 law governing the Gabonese PME's.

For the Brazilians, Mr Mauricio Kaufman stated that the businessmen of his country are prepared to join together with the Gabonese to create joint enterprises for the conversion of metals into locally usable products. These units, he said, would be based on a simplified technology suited to the country. "Before reaching this conclusion," he explained, "we studied the Gabonese market and found that in certain domains of the metallurgical sector, the demand is still strong, namely, the forging of farm tools, of manual tools for industrial and household use, a steel-cable factory and a chain factory."

In conclusion, Mr Kaufman stated that, since the Brazilian bank CADEX has already agreed to finance these projects, the only remaining requirement for the concretizing of these projects is the Gabonese Government's guarantee.

9399

CSO: 3419/121

GHANA

TEACHER RECRUITMENT FOR LIBYA DISCUSSED

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 16 Oct 84 p 5

[Article by Ayikwei Armah]

[Text] THE Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is working out a new protocol agreement aimed at regularising all previous procedures concerning the recruitment of Ghanaians by foreign agencies and countries.

The Employment Unit of the Labour and Social Welfare Ministry has been assigned the responsibility of working out this new protocol agreement.

This was announced by the Secretary for Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Ato Austin, in an interview with the "Graphic" in Accra yesterday.

Under the proposed agreement, the new protocol will require all foreign missions or agencies in Ghana which seek to initiate any recruitment exercise to apply to the Employment Unit of the ministry.

Mr Austin stated that the ministry will then assist the agency recruiting to draft the necessary contract agreement and apply the provisions as contained in the proposed draft general protocol.

The Secretary, who was speaking on the recruitment of Ghanaian teachers to Libya, said Ghana would not be able to release the 500 teachers Libya is asking for and stressed, "we will give them a limited number which we can afford."

This, he explained, was because Ghana itself is in short supply of teachers, adding that "we want to rationalise the system of recruitment of all categories of labour."

Mr Austin said the "Libyans have brought their contract: we have also brought our contract and these are going to be studied by a tripartite committee including officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to form the basis for acceptance."

Mr Austin who stated that the drafting of the protocol agreement will also include personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so as to establish general guidelines for recruitment said, "Personal contact" between the foreign agency and the person being recruited would first be signed.

He said the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare and Foreign Affairs will then study the contract between the recruiting agency and the person being recruited.

This, according to him, is to enable the two ministries to ensure that there exist in it, all kinds of protective measures to ensure the security of the person being recruited.

He disclosed that all returnee teachers from Nigeria have been excluded from the recruitment to Libya.

Commenting on the recruitment of Ghanaian teachers to Libya, Mr Paul Osei-Mensah, general secretary of the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) expressed grave concern over the agreement signed between the two countries, reports Faustina Ashirifie. Mr Osei-Mensah observed that though it is necessary for African countries to assist each other in times of need to ensure a total development of the continent, governments should not do so at the expense of the peoples.

He was speaking to the "Graphic" in Accra when he was contacted on his views about the recruitment exercise currently going on for 500 teachers to be sent to Libya by the end of the month.

The General Secretary disclosed that schools in the country are staffed with as many as 42,000 untrained teachers and therefore it was expected that the few trained ones would remain in the system to strengthen the profession.

He further intimated that last year, the Winneba Training College produced only 32 qualified teachers, and noted that the demand for teachers in English and French should have been related to the number of teachers produced each year in those areas.

"My main concern is the number of qualified teachers being exported, in as much as we must help each other, the number is too big as compared to the total output each year," he lamented.

Under a cultural agreement between Ghana and Libya, 500 language teachers are being recruited to teach in Libya. Ten out of the number are French teachers while the remaining are to teach English Zenobia Ofori Danquah reports.

The basic qualification for selection is either a degree or diploma in English or French with a three-year teaching experience and in current service in the country.

At the Labour College in Accra last week where the exercise took place more than 500 teachers came in with their various qualifications.

On the interviewing panel were representatives of the Ghana Education Service, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and two inspectors of English from Libya, Mr Salem Ahmed Zayat and Mr Abdul Magidlel-Bisht.

LABOR, SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY: TUC'S DEMAND NOT JUSTIFIABLE

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 10 Nov 84 pp 1, 4, 5

[Article by Akwele Ajavon]

[Excerpt] THE Labour and Social Welfare Secretary, Mr Ato Austin, has said that the recent demand by the TUC for a change in the PNDC's economic policy is unjustifiable.

"The TUC has dealt very unfairly with the government's Economic Recovery Programme and its demand gives the impression that the programme is a failure", he said.

Mr Austin was speaking to newsmen before his departure to Geneva to attend an ILO conference.

The Congress in a resolution passed recently protested against the government's "submission to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and urged it to wrestle the country's economy from the grips of those financial institutions".

"As a result of these IMF conditions, working people in Ghana now face unbearable living conditions which manifest themselves in poor nutrition, high prices of goods and services, inadequate housing, and crime", the resolution said.

But Mr Austin maintained that the present hardships of workers can not be blamed on the programme which he said is so far the best of all the options open to the PNDC.

"Since 1976, wages and salaries of workers have not been commensurate with the cost of living so the problem is not the creation of the programme launched by the PNDC", he said.

According to him the demand does not take account of the crisis the programme has averted and disregards the concrete achievements of the PNDC in the transportation, agricultural and export sectors of the economy.

GHANA

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN GIFT TO PSWU--The Hungarian Union of Civil and Public Servants yesterday presented a quantity of sports and photographic equipment worth about 10,000 dollars to the Public Services Workers Union of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in Accra. The equipment include six sets of jerseys, 30 pairs of hose, canvas shoes, three footballs, three volleyballs, football boots, a typewriter, duplicating machine, a set of photographic equipment and a quantity of assorted books. Mr Lajos Bozi, Hungarian Ambassador in Ghana presented the items on behalf of the union while Mr K. Opere Ababio, general secretary of PSWU received them. [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 26 Oct 84 p 8]

NETHERLANDS COTTAGE INDUSTRIES GRANT--THE Dutch Government has given a \$26,602,500 (665,000 dollar) grant through the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to the National Council on Women and Development (NCWD) for the establishment of cottage industries on co-operative basis. Under a programme code-named "Technology For Rural Women", 14 centres for processing gari, palm and coconut oil, soap making, charcoal production and fish farming, managed by rural women have been established throughout the country. [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 1 Nov 84 p 8]

ESTIMATED DIAMOND EARNINGS--GHANA expects to earn about 5.4 million dollars from 670,000 carats of rough diamonds which will be exported by the Diamond Marketing Corporation (DMC) from next year's production projections. Production of 180,000 carats of rough diamonds from mid-September to December 31 this year will also earn the nation 1.2 million dollars. These were disclosed by Mr K. A. Quansah, Managing Director of the Diamond Marketing Corporation in an interview with the Graphic yesterday. The Managing Director said Ghana Consolidated Diamonds produces 95 per cent of rough diamonds for DMC while Local Diamond Winners also produce five per cent of it. [Kate Baaba Hudson] [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 14 Nov 84 pp 1, 4]

TOGO-BOUND CONTRABAND INTERCEPTED--ABOUT \$1.5 million worth of goods allegedly being smuggled to Togo were intercepted at Akpokofe in the Volta Region at the week-end. The goods included 120 cartons of matchets, 60 pieces of assorted plywood, 32 maxi bags of cola-nuts and scantlings. The goods which were hidden under a heap of firewood were discovered when Border Guards, People's Militia and the Police intercepted the vehicle carrying them. Meanwhile, the driver of the vehicle, Abdul Rahmani, is in military custody pending investigation. [Text] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 15 Oct 84 p 5]

FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE--THE National Commission for Democracy is to collate, evaluate and synthesize views on the future political structure of Ghana for presentation to the nation. A statement signed by Col. J. M. Ewa, PNDC Chief of Staff, said at the week-end that in this assignment which is the first phase of the NCD's programme of action, its work would be guided by the declared objectives of the revolution on the concept of democracy relevant to the participation of the broad majority of the people in the decision-making process. It will work in such a manner as to bring the rights and responsibilities of the machinery of self-government to the doorsteps of every Ghanaian in a meaningful process of genuine decentralization of the state administration. The following persons, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice D. F. Annan, are members of the National Commission for Democracy: Prof. Nana Kobina Nketsia, Lt. Col. Christine Debrah, Dr Ayirebi Acquah and Mr S. Garba. The Secretary for Local Government, Mr F. A. Jantuah and his Under-Secretary, Miss Gertrude Zakaria, are ex-officio members. Other persons may be co-opted by the commission. [Text] [Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 84 p 1]

RURAL BANKING PROGRAM EXPANSION--THE Bank of Ghana has strongly suggested to the Ministry of Agriculture to consider working out a programme under which the 96 rural banks in the country can be assisted to grant loans in the form of farming tools to small-scale farmers. This arrangement would not only supplement the efforts of the European Economic Community (EEC) but also save rural farmers the agony of taking cash loans in spite of which they are not able to obtain the requisite agricultural tools which the loans are meant for. Mr Akwasi Akompong, an executive director of the Bank of Ghana, who suggested this regretted that huge sums of money given out as loans to farmers by the rural banks in the past were misapplied and therefore stressed the need for a combination of farming tools and cash advances. He was speaking at the official opening of the Asanteman Rural Bank, the 19th in Ashanti and 96th in the country at Afrancho near Akumadan on Monday. Mr Akompong noted that even though the EEC has been assisting the rural banks in many ways including training and the supply of farming tools to facilitate a rapid expansion of the rural banking programme, there is the need for local arrangement to ensure that farmers get from the rural banks all that they need to pursue their farming activities without any interruption. [Albert Sam] [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 31 Oct 84 p 1]

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MILITARY TRAINING--MILITARY training is to be introduced into the service scheme of customs officers, Mr I. Opoku Ntiamoah, Deputy Controller of the Customs and Excise Department has announced in Sunyani. He said military training will equip customs officials to discharge their duties efficiently. In addition it will enable them to defend the country when the need arises. Mr Ntiamoah was speaking at a passing out ceremony of 18 customs officials drawn from the Brong-Ahafo and Greater Accra Regions after a four-week training. He advised officials to be patriotic, nationalistic and discharge their duties with zeal. Mr Ntiamoah expressed the hope that the officials would work cordially with other military trained personnel at their various posts to ensure that the resources and revenue of the nation are protected. He also exhorted them to be more security conscious and be ready to face any threat which might come their way in the discharge of their duties. The officials undertook physical training, weapon training and drill during the period. [C. S. Buabeng] [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 26 Oct 84 p 8]

WARDA TRACTOR DONATION--The West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) has presented two Fiat tractors valued at C1,520,750 to the Ghana Government at a ceremony in Accra. [Excerpt] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 25 Oct 84 pp 4, 5]

DETAILS ON WAGE RAISE--More light has been thrown on the 100 percent increase in the present minimum rationalization wage which has been approved by the National Economic Commission. An official statement today says the 50 percent increase to be enjoyed by workers this month will amount to a rise from 35 cedis to 52 cedis 50 pesewas. The full 70 cedis will be paid at the end of next month. The statement said in order that the increase does not become inflationary, the tripartite committee agreed on measures to support it. The government, the Trade Union Congress [TUC], and the Employers Association shall take the necessary steps to raise productivity, check laziness, malingering, and indiscipline at work places. The Ghana Private Road Transport Union will have to enforce the approved transport fares and direct allocation of goods through the Workers Consumer Cooperative System will be adopted to ensure a more equitable and effective distribution of essential goods to all workers. The statement added that the tripartite committee is to launch a major campaign to ensure that all the supporting measures are implemented. [Text] [Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 84 AB]

CSO: 3400/326

U.S. POSTURE ON NAMIBIA VIEWED AS OBSTRUCTIONIST

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 22 Oct 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Baffling an Oppressed People"]

[Text]

TWO LEADING AFRICAN figures recently attacked the United States policy in Southern Africa for being unable to deliver a beacon of hope for the independence of Namibia.

THE TWO AFRICANS, Bishop Desmond Tutu, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, noted in unequivocal terms that Namibia's independence had long been delayed as a result of the United States' support for South Africa.

BISHOP TUTU, WHO has been awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role as a unifying "leader figure" in the campaign to resolve the enduring problem of apartheid in South Africa, criticized the United States because, after many years of negotiations, Washington has done little to help the Namibian people to achieve their independence.

MOREOVER, WASHINGTON'S SO-CALLED policy of constructive engagement in the southern African sub-region has had no beneficial consequences in any direction, in bringing pressure to bear on the racist-ruled state.

IN HIS CRITICISM, President Moi insisted that there is no linkage between the presence of an estimated 30,000 Cuban troops in Angola and the independence of Namibia, which has been fighting for its freedom from South Africa for more than 18 years while South Africa continues to defy countless UN resolutions on the Namibian question.

MR. MOI SOUNDED a note for many African nations when he said that the United States, like the other super power, the USSR, is a friend of Kenya, which has assisted her in many ways. He could have said 'a friend of many African nations' including Liberia.

BUT WE FEEL safe in stating that Africans throughout the continent and the world are very disappointed that after nearly four years in office, the Reagan administration has been unable even to deliver Namibia from the racist and inhumane tentacles of South Africa.

SIX YEARS AGO, political analysts convincingly predicted that Namibia would be free long before Zimbabwe, since the former consisted merely of the transfer of administrative authority from South Africa to African hands. Zimbabwe, on the other hand, was, like South Africa itself, a white colonial enclave whose liberation was perceived as much more difficult.

ALAS, THANKS TO the combined pressure of many African governments, the OAU and the forthrightness of the Thatcher government in dealing with the issue, Zimbabwe is today a free country, while the independence of Namibia still hangs in the balance.

AS FOR SOUTH AFRICA itself, the U.S. government has taken a favorable attitude toward the so-called constitutional reforms, which Washington knows are not only unfair and unjust, but short-sighted because they exclude the overwhelming Black majority.

WE KNOW OF no pressure applied by Washington on the South African government to desist from going ahead with such an unworkable and unfortunate policy.

THE WORLD KNOWS that it is the United States that holds the trump card on the Namibian issue. This is not only because of the extensive U.S. investments in South Africa. The U.S. is the leader and ultimate defender of the free world, of which South Africa likes to call herself a part.

SOUTH AFRICA IS also of strategic interest to the United States and for this reason the U.S. is working with Pretoria to ensure that these interests are secure and utilized to the fullest.

BUT THESE STRATEGIC interests hold much more at stake for the South Africans and the protection of their evil system of apartheid than they do for the United States.

AS THE U.S. elections draw nearer — barely two weeks away — we know that there is not much that the Reagan administration can do about an issue they have failed to deal with in four years.

HOWEVER, IT IS important for the U.S. to know that to baffle and frustrate an oppressed and suffering people is one sure way of sending them helter skelter in search of another friend — a friend who may not be on the best of terms with America.

THE AMERICANS MUST also reflect on why they are finding it so difficult and so costly to promote democracy and human rights in Latin America. The critical question is, what was Washington's attitude, in the early days toward the ANCs and SWAPOs of Latin America?

CSO: 3400/315

LIBERIA

ISRAELI FIRM TO FINANCE LTPC REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 30 Oct 84 pp 3, 6.

[Excerpt] An agreement establishing the Liberia Investors Timber Corporation (LITCO), has been signed between YONA International, an Israeli based corporation, and the Liberia Timber and Plywood Corporation (LTPC).

The agreement was signed recently in the State of Israel when a six-man technical team, headed by Captain Yancy Peters Flah, chairman of LTPC board of directors, visited that country to conclude the agreement with YONA.

Under the agreement, LITCO will operate LTPC through "an operating company called the Liberia Timber and Plywood Operation (LTPO)."

According to the agreement, YONA International would be responsible to finance the rehabilitation program of LTPC.

The agreement further states that all LTPC workers will receive their salary arrears, while full payment of LTPC's legitimate trade creditors will also be made as well as payment of taxes owed government.

Provision for the payment of royalty to LTPC, as well as payment of forestry taxes are also included in the agreement.

The agreement further states that the Liberian government will not subsidize LITCO, and that there will not be any government guarantee for the funding of the joint venture, as well as no payment of management fees whatsoever.

The joint venture is expected to become operational November this year.

CSO: 3400/315

SECOM, POLITICAL PARTIES URGED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 12 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Stop Unnecessary Confrontation"]

[Text]

LAST WEEK THE Special Elections Commission refused to accept the pre-registration documents of the Liberian Unification Party (LUP) after the party organizers severely criticized SECOM's guidelines and declared their refusal to comply with section 4 (d).

SUCH A CONFRONTATION, in our view, was unnecessary and should have been avoided; more so, when from all intent and purposes, LUP went to SECOM's office with all their documents including checks to cover the required \$50,000 in cash as well as the required securities and bonds.

LUP COULD HAVE made their point by making their payment under protest and reserving unto themselves the right to challenge this provision of the Guidelines at the proper time.

SECOM, ON THE other hand, cannot be found blameless; for, one of the complaints the Organizing Committees of political parties have been voicing is SECOM's unwillingness to meet them or discuss issues with them until they have fulfilled the requirements and registered as full-fledged parties.

SOMETIMES IN THE interest of fairplay, goodwill and the need to create a favorable rapport, it is best to make the rules flexible and listen in an informal way to some of the ideas of those whom you must deal with.

AS A REFEREE, captain and monitor in this political process, SECOM can ill-afford to lose its temper. It will have to exercise patience, tolerance and guidance. There will be occasions when rebukes will be necessary, but at this stage we think SECOM should be able to recognize political posturing as against serious contentions on issues.

WHEN LUP ATTACKS the section 4(d) of the Elections Guidelines, requiring \$50,000 cash and \$100,000 sureties, she may have a point well taken when she says it "discriminates against the poor of this country and deny the equal protection of the law. It is a tendency to separate the few rich citizens from the overwhelmingly majority voters who are poor."

THE POINT IS not only arguable, but valid for discussion. Nevertheless, for LUP to use the occasion of presenting pre-registration papers as a venue for challenging the Guidelines and declaring its refusal to comply was rather tendentious.

AT THIS STAGE, we think groups should shy away from confrontations; especially so, with the Special Elections Commission. For once the Elections Commission is antagonized, you find yourself travelling a rugged political road.

IT CAN BE very impolitic to be political sometimes. Those who are forming political parties should do all they can to satisfy the requirements of SECOM as soon as possible in order to get down to the serious tasks of winning supporters by exposing to the nation the type of policies they intend to pursue and the type of nation they envision to build.

THE ISSUES CONFRONTING this nation are diverse and complex. There are obvious forces which do not want to have these issues addressed and redressed; but those who have come out in the vanguard to form political parties should do everything to demonstrate patience, statesmanship, responsibility and a true sense of duty.

THE PARTIES SHOULD also begin to appeal to all shades of the Liberian people. The tendency to style one party as the party of the masses and another as the party of the rich only widens the already existing rift which this process is endeavouring to bridge.

EVERY PARTY SEEKING registration should have room for the poor, the rich, the man in the interior as well as those along the coast. For, the nation-building process will not rest solely upon the winning party, but it will rest upon the unity which that party can forge out of its victory that will galvanize the people to work assiduously for the progress and development of their nation.

NOW THAT MR. KPOLLEH and his group have made their point, we hope efforts are being made to reconcile their differences with SECOM so that they may proceed in the direction of registering and taking their rightful place in the political arena which promises to be vibrant, entertaining and constructive.

CSO: 3400/315

LAMCO, SEAMEN DISPUTE BUCHANAN PORT; COURT ACTION THREATENED

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 13 Nov 84 p 12

[Article by McGill S. Borbor]

[Text]

The National Seamen, Ports and General Workers Union of Liberia (NSP&GWU) with headquarters in Buchanan, has threatened a court action against the Lamco J.V. Operating Company for "trying to sabotage the operation of the Union" at the Port of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

But the Management of Lamco says it has no objections to the formation of the Seamen's Union, but maintains that no union has the right to impose services on Lamco since the Company is bound by agreement with government.

In an interview with the *Daily Observer* on Friday, at his Tubman Street office in Buchanan, Mr. J. Zazaboi Miller, Acting President of the NSP&GWU, said that following the processing of their documents with the Probate Division of the Second Judicial Circuit Court in Buchanan, the LAMCO Management has failed to grant them the rights to function at the Port of Buchanan as a "legalized body" with all rights to operate the harbour freely.

According to him, the Union's constitution and regulations, which stipulate

that the Union may "unionize", operate and control all activities in every port within Liberia", have been ignored by the Lamco Management.

He said the Union is a legal entity that is duly recognized by government to function as a National Labour organization and noted that such functions are exercised on sea, ports, at industries and plantations.

Mr. Miller said that the Union shall perform all standing jobs on vessels when they are anchored or berthed at any of the ports of Liberia. He said it shall take active part in the function of the Ports in Liberia.

He further stated that government's position on the issue as contained in the Justice Minister's letter to the Union dated October 12, 1984 which was displayed to our reporter by the Union said that the

Union's Constitution and By-Laws were declared "null and void" and the provision therein, which made the Union's services obligatory and compulsory were not valid or enforceable.

He added that the Justice Minister's decision has created a "serious problem for the Union which includes a loss of more than five thousand dollars and leaving over 400 members jobless.

But according to an unofficial source, the Buchanan Union has nevertheless rendered non-compulsory watchman and gangway men services to some twelve ships in the Lamco harbour in Buchanan and have received payments up to \$3,052 from respective ship owners.

At another time, Mr. Miller said the Union got the approval from the Bureau of Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance to have three members of the Union serve on the "Vessels Boarding Party."

But he noted that at a later time the Minister of Finance "revoked the action" and informed the Union that the Vessels Boarding Party does not include Union members but "a

Health Officer, a Maritime Pilot, a Coast Guard Officer, and an Immigration Officer."

Mr. Miller said these actions, among other things, are intended to sabotage the operation of the Union and such saboteur, he claimed, was the Lamco Management which has "misconstrued the entire case and given wrong impression on the matter to government."

Contacting Lamco's management on the matter, the Administrative Manager, Mr. Lami Kawah, said that Lamco is not opposed to the Union organizing itself. Nor does Lamco have objections to the Union performing watchman or gangway-man services provided that such arrangements are mutually agreed between the Union and Captain.

"In other words, the Union may offer its services for hire and negotiate for same with the Captain, but may not impose such services on them," Mr. Kawah said.

He noted that with all necessary explanation surrounding Management's position on the matter, the Union insists that by prohibiting its By-Laws and Constitution, the act is an authorization by government

for the Union to control all activities in the Ports of Liberia, including the Port of Buchanan which, according to Mr. Kawah, is built and operated by Lamco, under its Concession Rights.

He said in view of this action Lamco, on the other hand, maintained that in keeping with its Concession Agreement with government, which Agreement is still valid and in full force, "no organization may interfere in Lamco's operation merely by virtue of the fact that the By-Laws and Constitution of such an organization have been prohibited in Court."

Another source in Buchanan said that Lamco's position in the matter is not to bar the Union from operation. But the source noted that the stipulations within the Regulation of the Union could not allow any company to accept.

The source said that according to the Regulation, the Union shall have "all right to recruit and control all stevedores and casual workers and general port workers who are employed by any Management."

It makes it mandatory that all contractual jobs at the various seaports in the country be turned over to the Union to perform jobs like loading and

unloading of vessels.

The source also said that the Regulation stipulates that for the safety of the vessel, its crew and cargoes, the Union shall have the right and full authority at all times to charge and inspect baggage, wrapped load and hand grips entering and leaving the vessel.

"For the safety of the vessel and its crew, the Safety Team of the Union shall inspect a vessel to ascertain that it is in better condition to ensure its sea worthiness", it said.

Such mandatory actions are what management is opposing, the source concluded.

CSO: 3400/315

JONES ATTRIBUTES SAGGING ECONOMY TO TAX EVASION, CORRUPTION

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 19 Oct 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Sam H. Johnson]

[Text]

Finance Minister G. Alvin Jones has said that in 60 days, the nation's sagging economy will definitely take an upward trend.

As the first step towards achieving this, Minister Jones says beginning next week he intends to boost revenue intake by personally supervising duty collection at the Monrovia Free Port, Robert International Airport and other ports of entry, an exercise which he has carried out on several occasions before with success.

"If need be, I will operate my office from the Free Port (which is government's main source of revenue), the finance minister said in an interview with this paper yesterday.

The Finance Minister's 60-day vow

comes in the wake of last Monday's cabinet meeting at which the Liberian Leader explained disappointment over government's present revenue intake.

Minister Jones admitted that there is a need to improve current tax collection although the Special Task Force has been successful so far in collecting arrears.

He attributed the decline in revenue collection to three factors: evasion of taxes, dishonesty among finance ministry employees and the abuse of duty-free privileges granted some businessmen as investment incentives.

He also said "confidence problem" caused by recent events within the country had affected the financial situation, but noted

that things were improving now that tension was abating.

He conceded that the practice of soliciting bribe is prevalent among employees of his ministry.

Mr. Jones observed that tax collectors are conniving with businessmen to evade payment of duties on goods entering the Free Port.

Reports from the ministry even tell of employees there soliciting tips to process forms for business individuals wanting to pay their taxes.

The Finance Minister threatened to take stern measures against corrupt employees, and appealed to the business community to report employees who solicit tips in the performance of their duties.

He warned that foreigners who engage in bribery would be deported.

On the abuse of duty-free privileges, Minister Jones said it is the responsibility of the National Investment Commission to monitor the activities of those who enjoy business tax exemption to ensure that there is no foul play.

He cited incidents of privileged establishments importing goods for businesses and individuals that are not tax-exempted.

From time to time, the Finance Ministry has temporarily frozen duty-free privileges to curb abuses of the system. Minister Jones, during the interview yesterday, gave the impression that this method has met with little success.

CSO: 3400/315

SAWYER ACCUSED OF INDIFFERENCE TO STUDENTS' SACRIFICES

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 2 Nov 84 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt]

A senior student of the University of Liberia has attacked Dr. Amos Sawyer for what he referred to as his "lack of concern for the welfare of the university students" who have been out of school since last August's skirmish with soldiers in the wake of agitation for Dr. Sawyer's release.

Mr. Edward N. Slinger, a senior student of the College of Agriculture and Forestry, told the NEW LIBERIAN in an interview Wednesday that he was amazed that since his release from detention about a month ago, Dr. Sawyer had not said or done anything to show that he cared about the welfare of the students who had risked everything, including their lives and careers, to prevail on government for his release from detention.

Mr. Slinger explained that although Dr. Sawyer was arrested by government in his capacity as a politician, students had given him their unflinching support because of his position as dean of the university.

Mr. Slinger said that while he did not approve of the channel adopted by the students to secure Dr. Sawyer's release, he felt that the solidarity shown by the students was in itself a laudable stand which ought to have been reciprocated by Dr. Sawyer through more show of concern for the sufferings of the students.

"As an educator, I had been expecting more from him," Mr. Slinger said, noting that since his release from jail, Dr. Sawyer had made several

public statements concerning his political activities but had not on one occasion mentioned the great sacrifices made by the students on his behalf.

"Is he trying to tell us that if we vote for him that's just how he will forget about us.", Mr. Slinger wondered.

Dr. Sawyer could not be reached for comment, in spite of efforts by the NEW LIBERIAN to get his reaction.

'FAIR PLAY' URGED IN UNIVERSITY REORGANIZATION

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 9 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The University's Role"]

[Text] In an effort to get the University of Liberia back in operation, the new team of administrators appointed by the Head of State has been carrying out the tedious task of assessing damage, appraising available teaching materials, and, in the words of one administrator, "streamlining" the staff.

As these exercises go on, students and parents in the community are watching events closely and wondering just when the University will be reopened.

Considering the damage which was done materially, administratively, morally and psychologically, it is generally acknowledged that the task at hand is not an easy one. It seems that an entire reorganization process is going on.

This process is all the more difficult in the absence of a Board of Trustees. Nevertheless, we expect that the new administrators are being guided by the University Charter so that in whatever direction they may steer the institution, this may be sanctioned by the Charter. Anything to the contrary would create problems for the future.

In the process of "streamlining" the staff, it has been reported that a number of teachers or staff members have been dropped or may be placed on probation while their activities and movements are closely watched.

What criteria were used to replace them is not known; however, the University of Liberia is an academic institution and politics or shades of political opinions should not serve as a criteria for employment there.

The new administration has a task of not only putting together the pieces which were broken on August 22, but it owes unto itself a duty of establishing credibility unto itself. That credibility will be reflected in the type of scholars they retain on the campus; the rapport it can develop with staff members, students and the community.

We expect that the "streamlining" being done is not only in the interest of promoting and achieving academic excellence and discipline on the campus, but

also with a view to giving the University the proper role it should play at this critical juncture of our national life.

There is now no time for witch-hunting and purges. We believe the University, in its reorganizational drive should steer itself clear out of politics or political influences. It should help the Liberian people to achieve the civilian rule process by educating the public. It should hold seminars, symposia and lecture series on the constitution, the meaning of a multi-party system, its positive effects, and negative aspects, if any.

The University should place itself in the position to set up political debates between opposing politicians, create issues for discussions and put the entire process of constitutional rule above the mundane things politics are seen to be made of.

We expect the new administration to encourage academic discussions and freedom of thought so that the institution may continue to play a significant role in the social, academic and political life of the nation.

This is the role we see for the University and this can only be done if the University itself remains broad-minded and engages in fair play in its reorganizational process.

CSO: 3400/315

STATUS OF MARITIME-RIVER FLEET REPORTED

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 6 Nov 84 p 16

[Text] Maritime and river traffic along the Beira-Chiloane-Machanga-Mambone-Vilankulo route in both directions will be stepped up when the vessel Patria is put back into service this month for the transportation of passengers and freight to and from these regions in the provinces of Sofala and Inhambane.

The Patria, which is a part of the fleet owned by the Beira River Transport enterprises, has been out of use for about a year, but repair work has since been done and a new engine imported from France installed, among other things.

The investment in the repair of the vessel is estimated at about 4,750 cantos, including purchase of the engine, although it was paid for in foreign exchange.

This vessel was designed for the transport of 140 seated passengers and 35 tons of freight.

Xavier Vombe Madeu, director of the Beira River Transport enterprise, said in an interview granted to DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE that "The recommissioning of the Patria is a step toward meeting the need for maritime transportation links between the provinces of Sofala and Inhambane.

"Currently only the final details of repair remain, such as the installation of the engine and the electrical control board," he added.

Other Details

With the recommissioning of the Patria, the number of vessels being operated by the Beira River Transport enterprise is increased to three.

The complete fleet of the enterprise includes five vessels, two of which have suffered breakdowns (repairs have been begun on one of them in the Beira Ship Repair Yard [RENAB] workshops). According to Director Xavier Madeu, the construction of yet another maritime-river vessel is planned for the near future, again with a view to strengthening the fleet.

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CSO: 3442/91

IMPROVEMENTS IN NACALA PORT FACILITIES UNDER WAY

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 8 Nov 84 p 4

[Text] Within the framework of improvements to the loading facilities in the port of Nacala in the city of the same name in Nampula, work is in progress on the installation of five loading cranes, two of them with a capacity of 20 tons and the balance with a capacity of 5,000 kilograms. In this connection, the administration of that railroad-port complex will increase its efforts to guarantee repair and maintenance of all equipment in use there, as well as to encourage greater worker productivity.

Agostinho Rufasse, general director of the port of Nacala, said in talking to DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE reporters who visited that city some days ago that the work of installing the cranes mentioned above was begun during the first half of this year, and it is expected that it will be completed shortly.

This official went on to say that the execution of this work has been undertaken by a domestic enterprise, Cometal-Mometal, which also produces this equipment. The work in question is rather well along, in the view of our interlocutor.

Thus the port of Nacala, one of the most important in the country, will after the completion of the work described above have 15 cranes on the general loading wharves, two of the 13 with a capacity of five tons, one with a capacity of 10 and the others with a capacity of 20,000 kilograms.

It was noted that the port of Nacala occupies an extremely important position in the handling of freight for neighboring countries, particularly Malawi, a matter which was seriously discussed in connection with improvements in the trade relations between our two countries during the recent visit paid to that African nation by President Samora Machel.

Maintenance

On the subject of the maintenance of the equipment located in the port of Nacala, it is expected that a team of technicians in the railroad-port sector from the GDR will arrive before the end of this year. They will undertake a survey of the condition of the transport and crane equipment, among other machines, and will then establish a plan for the recovery and repair of the damaged items.

Agostinho Rufasse commented, moreover, on the present status of the transportation machinery. He stressed that a part of the equipment is out of use due to the lack of batteries, radiators and tires, among other mechanical components. These problems are the reason for the inactivity of two of the four container machines, with a capacity of 20 tons, which the sector has.

Information obtained by DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE from that official indicates that, also with regard to maintenance of port equipment, the first cadre-training course for those who will have the task of providing technical maintenance for all the machinery found in this sector of activity is now under way.

However, our source did not specify how many participants are taking part, stressing that the course is limited to the port improvement project described.

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CSO: 3442/91

FISH PRODUCTION FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION BEING PUSHED

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 17 Nov 84 p 4

[Article by Jonas Cossa]

[Text] A program designed to make use of maritime resources to supply the people is being carried out by the bodies connected with the fishing sector in our country. The plan to increase the volume of local fish production and thus to reduce imports of this product also involves the cooperation of the GDR and other friendly countries.

According to the information given to DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE by a domestic source involved in the undertaking, this major program is designed to make gradual use of the foreign exchange saved for the purpose of financing imports of equipment for the establishment of domestic fishing infrastructures.

"Thus as our self-sufficiency in fish increases, we will be able to import more vessels, engines and other fishing equipment, apart from increasing our exports of what we now buy and the fish we ourselves can catch," our source explained to us.

The program will be carried out in various parts of the country, where its development is at various stages, our source stressed at a given point in our interview.

In this context, an experimental fishing project is under way in Sofala, with two vessels and their crews from the GDR, estimated at about 20 individuals, participating.

The two vessels have been making a practical evaluation of the fishing potential in the maritime zone of the province of Sofala since the end of October. In the course of their activities, the technicians from the GDR are studying the sites with the greatest abundance of fish, as well as the best techniques for catching them, among other scientific aspects involved in this activity.

Benefits to Beira

It is important to stress that the experimental phase of the fishing project also covers a detailed analysis of its economical viability, our source told

us. Prospects for the future include the establishment of a mixed fishing enterprise involving Mozambique and the GDR.

In this connection, our reporters talked with Horst Dieter Seffner, the fishing representative of the GDR in this part of the country, who informed us of some details about the cooperative fishing undertaking planned for this province.

"Through this project which is still in the embryonic form, we want to support the people of the city of Beira with our work, and to reduce the problems caused by the shortage of fish," that cooperative worker said at a given point.

Horst Dieter Seffner explained further to us that for an undetermined period, possibly until next year, "we will work alone, so that while we are studying the specific situation in the waters of this sea, we can also become accustomed to the climate of Sofala."

He went on to add that "it is only after this phase that we will work with Mozambican cadres, and thus we will be in a better position to pass on to them our experience, and to learn with them as well."

Good Prospects

It should be noted that each of the two vessels sent by the GDR to operate in our country has a length of 250 meters and a capacity of 24 tons. They carry equipment for traditional fishing, and each is operated by eight technicians.

Since they began their work, the two vessels have caught 35 tons of fish on two sea trips, and they are preparing to complete a third. Each such effort lasts an average of five days.

Commenting on production, our source said that although some difficulties still exist, work is proceeding normally, and he went on to say that the prospects are promising, "because your sea is very rich. All that is necessary is to know how to exploit this wealth.

"With a view to speed and productivity in our work, we plan to reduce the time we remain at sea from five to three days," the fishing representative of the GDR stressed. Comparing production volumes, Horst Seffner stressed that "on our first trip we caught three tons in two days, while during the second, we caught 12 during the same period. We are still correcting errors in order to increase production, and perhaps after a month our work will be better."

This individual explained that if the rate of production remains at the current level, it can be expected that the experimental project will lead to a catch of 2,160 tons of fish next year. "Our idea is to place the fish on the market immediately in order to avoid deterioration and other problems," he said.

One of the difficulties encountered by the crew members of these ships during their fishing activity had to do with insufficient facilities for preserving the fish, since these vessels do not have cold storage systems on board.

The fishing representative of the GDR explained to us that everything was taken into account in the plan for the fishing project. Thus the undertaking was provided with a freezer plant intended to serve the vessels, located in one of the PESCOM warehouses in Munhava. It is now fully operational, following repairs dictated by operational failures which occurred during testing.

It will be recalled that the two vessels carry experts with long experience in fishing. Some of them have already worked in Cuba and Mauritius, among other tropical countries, not to mention their country of origin, which suggests that they will have no difficulty fitting in.

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CSO: 3442/91

NIGER

1985 GENERAL, INVESTMENT BUDGETS ANALYZED

General Budget Presentation

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 8 Oct 84 pp 2-3

[Text] The budget year just beginning comes within a rather unfavorable economic context. Since a great deal has already been said about the aspects characteristic of the world economic situation, it will suffice for us to add, in the specific case of our country and for the fiscal period just beginning, the continuing increase in the cost of our foreign debt service, the deterioration in our terms of trade, together with a difficult farm season as well as the hindrances affecting trade with certain of our traditional commercial partners.

In view of this situation, no enduring solution can be found through a day-by-day approach. It is for this reason that, for a certain time now, the government has undertaken steps on the macroeconomic scale, despite the complexity of the task, the purpose of which is to bring those of these parameters of which we have mastery under control, with a view to consistency and efficiency.

If the structural reforms in our economy have required a certain period of time to make their effects on domestic production and supply felt (a prerequisite to any growth which protects the basic balances in our economy), the fact remains that in the short term, financial recovery represents a basic step toward the structural adjustment efforts. The planning minister will be able to inform you better on this subject shortly.

To return to the recovery which is the stamp of the 1985 budget, let us recall that it comes within the framework of the programs agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). I would remind you of the main goals therein, as follows:

--On the macroeconomic level, reduction of the balance of payments deficit and price stabilization, while maintaining the economic growth effort.

--To achieve these goals, the following policies will have to be implemented:

a) In the budgetary sector, the deficit in the state finances must be reduced through an improvement in income and control of operational costs.

b) In the investment sector, the program is designed to ensure greater caution with a view to directing our investments toward the production sectors, with a view to future returns.

c) In the indebtedness sector, the effort will be oriented to obtaining financing consistent with our current debt service and our repayment capacity, in order to prevent the state and the nation from succumbing to a serious financial crisis one day.

d) The public enterprise aspect (in which the positive or negative situation does not in the relatively short run affect the situation of the state as such) is designed to improve management in such a way as to reduce the weight of these enterprises, or, conversely, to raise their contribution to the level of the effort being made by the national community as a whole. We cannot insist too much on the solidarity which must govern the actions of each since they always have effects, in an economy, on the situation of others.

e) Finally, in the monetary sector, plans call for control of the monetary mass, which is indispensable if indeed what we are seeking is to master prices and our balance of payments.

The complex of these measures should contribute to reducing the deficits in public finances and the balance of payments, bringing them back to a level consistent with the financial means available to us, whether in terms of:

--Bilateral or multilateral cooperation programs;

--The allocations expected from the IMF; or

--The planned reduction of the debt service, for which, it must be recalled, the IMF program is a prior condition.

Recovery in the field of public finance, as I have already said, represents one of the prerequisites for the success of this program. It is in this spirit that the finance law for the year 1985 was approved.

As in preceding years, the finance law for the 1985 budget year contains three parts, as follows:

a) The general budget, estimated this year at 85,969,085,000 francs, including an investment budget allocation of 6 billion;

b) The related operational budget for public works equipment, balanced at 1,570,070,000 francs; and

c) The investment budget, in the amount of 69,560,629,000 francs.

This is something new, therefore, because this year the national investment fund is being replaced by an investment budget which includes within it all of the investments planned by the state, both from its own resources and from

resources of foreign origin (loans or subsidies). Such a document will make possible not only stricter control on the level of implementation of the operations planned, but also a better assessment of the overall effort of the state in the public investment sector. By providing an overall view of the financial operations of the state, it also facilitates economic analysis.

I. The General Budget

This budget is balanced in terms of income and expenditures at the level of 85,969,085,000 francs, representing an increase of 5,734,100,000 francs (7.14 percent).

This increase, somewhat surprising in view of the context, is basically the result of the fact that exceptional resources have increased substantially in comparison to 1984.

We will return to this subject in the following explanations.

1. General Budget Income

Guided by the continuing desire to adapt the fiscal tool, the government has introduced new fiscal provisions based on the recommendations of the fiscal reform commission. They are designed basically to achieve:

--The development of fiscal legislation applicable to pensions, wages and life annuities. This measure has to do with the data processing of taxes on income, allowing the tax administration to obtain reliable information in connection with the tax base, control and collection of these taxes.

--Extension of the principle of deductibility of interest on loans to all loans contracted by taxpayers for the purchase of real estate located in Niger. This deduction is applicable to the general tax on income (IGR).

--Extension of this same principle to the land taxes established on assets located in Niger.

These two provisions are designed to avoid double taxation on the same income.

--The concept of the dependent child has been better defined, with a view to preventing any abusive declarations by certain taxable households.

The Indirect Tax Sector

A preferential rate where the tax on services rendered (TPS) is concerned will henceforth be applicable to telephone, telegraph and telex services provided by the Posts and Telecommunications Office or by legal entities in public or private law under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic of Niger. The interest rate is 10 percent as compared to an ordinary rate of 15 percent. This adjustment comes within the framework of the program for the financial recovery of that ministry.

Land Registry and Taxes

- Establishment of a fixed fee of 1,000 francs for the issuance of permanent certificates of exemption from the differential tax on motor vehicles (special tax label) or duplicates thereof.
- Increase of this same fee from 500 francs to 1,000 francs for the issuance of certificates of national origin.
- Updating of the fees collected for the issuance of licenses to practice (trade) and visas on foreign passports, and the issuance or renewal of residents and travel permits.
- Encouragement of companies to supply the tax administration regularly with information on the results of their management, with the establishment of penalties and fines for violations.
- Strengthening of collection procedures applicable to companies following correction, routine taxation or the application of penalties.
- Elimination of special surtaxes on the land taxes paid on built-up premises, with a view to lightening the taxpayers' burden, to the extent that the beneficiaries (communes and districts) compensate for the decrease resulting from the relief offered them by the state by full payment of this land tax.

Customs Sector

- Updating of the single export tax applicable to certain products designated on a limitative basis, in order to take into account the development of economic conditions between 1967 (when this tax originated) and 1984. This step is also designed to simplify taxation in this sector.

Reduction of the taxes applicable to imports of certain automotive vehicles (private or utilitarian vehicles offered new or used). This step is designed to make our taxation consistent with that of other countries in the sub-region. As I said earlier, income totals 85,969,085,000 francs, including 62,422,000,000 francs in tax income. Since this figure represents 72.60 percent of the total, taxation retains its usual priority role in budget income, although it represents a reduction from the initial 1984 budget, in which it accounted for 83.70 percent. This reduction is explained by the increase in economic difficulties having direct effects on certain sectors, including in particular customs collections.

A decline of 1,396,245,000 francs, or 17 percent, is also seen for various products, as a result of taking only certain income into account. Within this income sector, it should be emphasized that income from property nonetheless shows a relative increase, since the decline pertains to other miscellaneous income. The special resources, for their part, come to 16,769,090,000 francs, as compared to 4,904,005,000 francs in 1984, representing an increase of nearly 12 billion. This increase is explained by the more intensive effort for the consolidation of the state resources: loans, tax contributions and miscellaneous resources.

2. Expenditures

Like income, this total comes to 85,969,085,000 francs, including 21,833,000,000 francs allocated for repayment of the public debt. As in the preceding year, plans for this year also call for the rescheduling of our debt, and the figure mentioned is based on the results we hope will be achieved.

This figure, which is up 26.76 percent over the 1984 figure, is more the result of the monetary fluctuations we have experienced than a real increase in our commitments.

Personnel costs are up 550,937,000 francs, or only 2.13 percent. This reflects the desire of the government to limit these supposedly irreducible costs to what is strictly necessary, by slowing the hiring of assistants, and allowing hiring only of the planned personnel.

This increase is easily justified in terms of the hiring of the planned personnel and the normal promotion of those already employed. Expenditures on equipment show a particularly large increase, from 12,798,900,000 francs to 14,247,163,000 francs, or 11.31 percent. This increase is the result of the updating of the credit allocated to actual consumption of water, electricity and telephone services. Practically all of the remaining credits have been extended, if not revised downward, a sign of the caution which should characterize our administration. Transportation credits were also extended overall (increase of +0.16 percent). The allocations made for housing expenditures (leasing, maintenance) show a slight increase of 73,860,000 francs in comparison to 1984, because the needs of certain state administrations for premises have been taken into account.

Third-party credit shows a slight decline of 4.80 percent.

III. The Investment Budget

This budget is balanced in income and expenditures at 69,560,629,000 francs, of which 6 million francs is a general budget allocation.

The balance of the income is derived from various sources pertaining to loans and nonreimbursable aid, in the amount of 33,179,488,000 francs for the former and an amount of 30,381,141,000 francs for the latter.

I should not conclude this explanation without appealing, as usual, to the civic spirit and self-sacrifice of each citizen, so that this budget can be executed under the best conditions, for the pursuit of our development effort depends thereon.

If this budget, which is a collective project both in terms of its drafting and implementation, asks of all a continuous effort, it is designed above all to safeguard the future. There can be no doubt that it is upon our determination and serious effort to deal with the problems facing us that the concern of our partners, who are already aware of the achievements to date, will

increasingly depend. By way of proof I need only mention the substantial quota of foreign financing obtained this year, both in terms of the general budget and the investment budget as I have just described them to you.

(Tomorrow's issue will carry explanations by the minister delegate for planning.)

Investment Budget

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 9 Oct 84 pp 2-3

[Investment budget presentation by minister delegate for planning on 7 October 1984]

[Text] As the statement issued by the Council of Ministers on Thursday, 4 October 1984, revealed, that body adopted an investment budget along with the general budget.

As a result, no mention was made of the National Investment Fund (FNI), with which the people of Niger are now quite familiar.

It will also be recalled that on Thursday, 27 September 1984, the Council of Ministers approved Ordinance No 84-34 establishing the investment budget. This text abrogates Law No 69-39 dated 22 September 1969 creating the SNI, which thus ceases to exist.

What are the reasons for this situation, and more specifically, those which led the government to establish an investment budget?

It would perhaps be well to recall the general context within which this decision was made.

In fact, the world crisis has become more serious since 1981-82, leading to more severe economic imbalances in all sectors, and in particular in that involving the terms of trade and the payments, public finance and investment balances.

This situation, which is particularly difficult for our countries, led the Supreme Military Council and the government to begin to implement, in 1982, a process of profound review designed on the one hand to alleviate the effects of the crisis, and on the other, to undertake steps toward economic consolidation and recovery.

Thus thanks to the major results achieved by the various national seminars, the national committee for following the situation, the teams for drafting the Interim Consolidation Program (PIC) and the short-term recovery programs on which the minister of finance commented yesterday, as well as thanks to many other additional actions, Niger, unlike a number of other countries, has been able to maintain the initiative with regard to its economic policy.

Moreover, the 1984-1985 PIC will reach its end on 30 September 1985, and it is important that the consolidation of the gains it undertook to make and

implement be pursued and supplemented by the creation of conditions for longer-term development, which should be healthy and harmonious. In other words, it should not give rise to the development of any new imbalances, and it should correct those which have been detected (within the framework of our larger options).

Finally, since 1974, the chief of state, General Seyni Kountche, has constantly encouraged the people of Niger in the serious administration with which we are familiar on the international level, and he has personally overseen and urged our public and parapublic sectors to make efficient use of the available financial and material resources. All of these efforts deserve to be crowned by appropriate institutional and technical measures.

It is this need which justifies the establishment of a medium-range program for economic recovery, or in other words, the structural adjustment plan for which we began preparations a few months ago.

This program is designed to achieve two goals:

--First, to guarantee the future of our country, that is to say to establish the foundations for long-term development by effecting the structural reforms which were seen as necessary following a detailed and uncompromising analysis of all of the sectors of our economy.

--Secondly, it is a question in the meantime of alleviating the difficulties arising out of the world crisis, with an effort to achieve a certain resumption of activity.

Within this overall approach, we must take into account two types of constraint:

--Limitations of a structural nature, specifically:

--Our great dependence on the vagaries of the rainy season, where food is concerned;

--Our geographic position as a landlocked country (Niamey is more than 1,000 kilometers from the nearest maritime port, which is Cotonou, while Maradi is 1,440 kilometers from Lagos);

--The extent of our territory (sixth largest country in Africa in area, with almost 900 kilometers between Zinder and Niamey, more than 950 kilometers between Agadez and Niamey, and more than 1500 kilometers between Ayorou and Diffa);

--Our situation in the heart of the Sahel, with only 12 percent of the area fertile on a strip 1500 kilometers long and 50 to 250 kilometers wide, with about 350,000 kilometers of favorable agroclimatic zones in all; and

--The youth of our population, which, while it is our greatest asset, leads to tremendous school needs, of which the minister of national education has moreover informed the public just recently.

All of these limitations naturally give rise to substantial needs in terms of the transportation, water resources, health and education networks, and above all farm development.

--The third series of limitations has to do with the financial resources needed to pay off the cost of the burdens listed above, and they are evidenced in particular in:

--The important role uranium plays in the national economy (7.3 percent of the gross domestic product and at least 70 to 75 percent of the exports since 1978); and

--The limited development of certain other productive sectors (for example, industry, with 6.64 percent of the gross domestic product).

In view of these limitations, what resources are available to us?

First of all, there is obviously the creative genius of our people. I will return to this subject a little later.

And there are the top-level tools of economic management, among them planning.

In this connection and thanks to the documents of which I spoke in the very first part of my explanation, the government has established a system of flexible and overall programming.

Overall Programming

This means that we take into account, in a single document devoted exclusively to investment, all of the resources mobilized for this purpose by the state, whether they be its own (that is to say the part of the general budget allocated for investment) or resources of foreign origin (in other words, loans and subsidies or nonreimbursable aid).

This is what the investment budget consists of, and it includes as a counterpart to the resources, all of the investment expenditures of the state, whatever the means of financing them may be.

It is this centralizing aspect which basically distinguishes the investment budget from the FNI, which because it included only the expenditures made out of the definitive national resources, fell short, and by far, as we will explain shortly, of reflecting all of the efforts of the state in terms of public investment.

Flexible Programming

Heretofore, the planning of investments has involved predicting the resource and expenditure totals over a given period (3 years for the 3-year program, 5 years for the five-year plan, 2 years for the PIC).

Now as the current crisis situation clearly reveals, the basic economic data are difficult to stabilize over a more or less long period of time, because of the unforeseeable and sometimes profound changes which occur.

Planning, and more specifically programming, should as a result involve sufficient flexibility to allow the necessary adjustments.

This is the goal of the flexible programming based on a 3-year programming document, accompanied each year by an investment budget.

This method makes it possible to follow the implementation of a plan with both flexibility for adjustment and the strict administration required.

Now let us turn to the 1984-1985 investment budget.

The 1985 investment budget is balanced in terms of income and expenditures at 69,560,629,000 francs.

Its resources come from:

--The general budget, with an allocation of 6 billion francs;

--Sums drawn from loans totaling 33,179,488,000 francs; and

--Nonreimbursable aid in the amount of 30,381,141,000 francs.

Let us recall that in the course of the 1983 fiscal period, the state allocated resources totaling 48,480,000,000 francs to investments. The distribution was as follows:

--National Investment Fund--8,950,000,000 francs;

--Sums drawn from loans--22,800,000,000 francs; and

--Nonreimbursable aid--16,730,000,000 francs.

In 1984, allocations totaling 52,020,000,000 francs were made for investment, from the following sources:

--National Investment Fund--7 billion francs;

--Sums drawn from loans--26,670,000,000 francs; and

--Nonreimbursable aid--18,350,000 francs.

These figures (48 billion in 1983, 52 billion in 1984 and 69 billion in 1985) provide significant evidence of the determination of the state to maintain a certain level of activity, and even to begin to launch economic growth again.

With regard to expenditures the distribution by program is as follows:

--Economic development program--26,363,664,000 francs, or 37.90 percent of the expenditures;

--Social development program--18,645,405,000 francs, or 26.80 percent of the total;

--Program to support development--23,066,226,000 francs, or 33.16 percent of the total;

--Overseeing development--1,485,334,000 francs, or 2.14 percent of the total.

Therefore:

--The productive sectors will absorb 39.26 percent of the resources;

--The social sectors will absorb 26.80 percent;

--The transportation outlet infrastructures 31.94 percent; and

--The other sectors 2.00 percent.

Rural development, a productive sector par excellence, and an element in the economic development program, will receive 11,511,860,000 francs, or 27.17 percent of the total resources, and 66.42 percent of those allocated to the productive sectors as a whole.

These figures reveal the effort the state is making to provide for the future, with the allocation of a quarter of its resources to a sector which has a direct impact on self-sufficiency in food, and nearly 40 percent of its resources to those which consolidate and develop our capacity for agricultural, mining and industrial production, which are the foundations for harmonious and consistent development.

In these present times, it is in fact important to avoid "mortgaging the future." And we have the means to do this.

I said previously that the first asset we have available is the genius of our people.

The almost hostile physical environment in which our people live and the fact that despite it, they produce our national wealth and the encouraging results achieved provide clear proof, if proof is needed, of the readiness of our people and their capacity to face up to tests.

We have another immeasurable asset, and that is the reputation our country enjoys on the international level, which leads our partners, both international bodies and friendly countries, to make a greater contribution to our development efforts.

It is of the very greatest importance that we maintain and consolidate the serious work which is the foundation of this esteem in which the international community holds us.

We must see to it, in particular, that all of the documentation necessary for the implementation of the program of economic recovery in the long range and the conception and the drafting of projects are technically well-prepared where all of the ministries and public and parapublic departments are concerned. The technicians and the cadres on both the central and field levels must bear this concern constantly in mind.

Success also depends on our total willingness to give priority to methods of consultation with all. In this connection, the minister delegate for planning should be able to play his proper role in coordinating all of the activities of the state in the investment sector. The tools the mechanisms of which I explained earlier mean that no state investment should be made outside the national programming system which has been established.

In order to do this and in order to present the image of Niger in consistent fashion, it is necessary that financing agreements be studied, approved and signed in accordance with the agreed methods. The establishment of a "financing agreement file" at the Planning Ministry would be an appropriate means of maintaining an overall view of the public investments we seek.

Consistency in our actions is indispensable if we are to launch growth again.

Since our administrative cadres have always evidenced their determination to work for the development of Niger, I know that all of them will give my departments the support needed, because discipline is probably, in this sector as in so many others, the basic condition for strict implementation, and thus for success.

IMF 'Bitter Pills'

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 8 Oct 84 p 1

[Commentary by Aboubacar Kio Koudize]

[Text] Within a context of economic crisis, it is surprising that the budget of a Third World country should show an increase of 7.14 percent.

And yet, this is the miracle just experienced by our country, which has seen its general budget increased from 80,234,985,000 francs for the 1983-1984 fiscal year to 85,969,085,000 francs for the upcoming budget year.

This conduct, seen at a time when all of the underdeveloped countries are experiencing an economic recession due to inflation, the high cost of obtaining money (with the dollar spiral, as spectacular as it is scandalous), to which must be added the international market prices for our raw materials--this conduct, we say, cannot be assessed in its just dimensions unless certain burdens specific to us are taken into account. Not the least of these is the closing of the frontiers of one of our traditional trade partners. But despite all of this, our economy is bearing up well, as are our finances. The proof is the budget increase seen this year at a time when the international economic situation is not favorable to it. Should the hand of the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) be seen here? No! It is true that the IMF has its "formulas," but the reality is that our country has never been willing to swallow "bitter pills." The discussions undertaken between partners led to a dynamic compromise, allowing us both to advance our development programs and to obtain the financial means needed to satisfy certain of our needs.

But the discussion is not about that. The conduct pursued, far from pleasing us, calls us instead to greater sacrifice. Thus we must face up with even more determination to the tests awaiting us, above all since the rainy season this year did not measure up to our hopes.

The present budget was drafted under the slogan of financial recovery. This presumes rigorous control of our monetary mass, which will allow us gradually to reduce our balance of payments deficit and at the same time to guarantee price stability, while maintaining, and if necessary stepping up, our rate of growth. And this is why we are again called upon to persevere in rigor and efficiency in management!

The task is complex and the stakes vital. But we must, whatever the price, win the wager. The political will is there in any case, and that is the essential thing.

5157

CSO: 3419/155

FAO, NETHERLANDS DONATE FOODSTUFFS STORAGE FACILITIES

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 22 Oct 84 pp 1,3

[Article by O. Z.]

[Text] The regional cooperatives union of Niamey department has been given 11 storehouses with operating equipment, a gift of the FAO and the Netherlands Government.

The official turnover ceremony was conducted by the secretary general of Niamey prefecture in the presence of the Netherlands consul and representatives of the cooperatives.

On this occasion, the FAO representative, Salah Niare, stated that in addition to this investment, costing 101,312,631 CFA francs, there is the program for training the managers of these storehouses and the salaried personnel of the cooperative markets for the total of 11,374,350 CFA francs.

He added that this package is part of an overall figure of U.S. \$1,669,600 financed by the Netherlands in the context of the program for "support to organizations involved in marketing and management of grain stocks of the Nigerien Foodstuffs Office-Niger Credit and Cooperation Union (OPVN-UNCC)." The purpose of this program is to promote increased food security for our country by improving the qualifications of some of the personnel of the OPVN, UNCC, and agriculture staff; improvement of the management of OPVN; and increase in storage capacities in the less well-equipped cooperatives, particularly in the rice-growing areas.

In regard to the first objective, it involves training programs at all levels being developed for part of the staff and personnel of these three organizations. As for the second objective--improvement of the management of OPVN, technical assistance is being provided by three experts (in management, training and accounting).

In regard to increasing storage capacity in the cooperatives, the 11 storehouses and the training program for cooperative members will help to solve the problem of storage management, agricultural inputs, marketing of products, and management of the supply stores for staple products.

Mr Niare concluded by saying that through this program the FAO hopes to help promote the country's food self-sufficiency and security.

Replying to the FAO representative, the secretary general of Niamey prefecture stressed the importance of the program for "support to organizations for marketing of grain stocks," which was the product of the joint effort of Niger and the Netherlands and began operation in September 1982. The program will last 4 years and will cost 600 million CFA francs. For the phase carried out, cost of facilities construction and salaries for training of cooperative personnel will be almost 113 million CFA francs.

He stressed that increasing the storage capacity of cooperatives, improving qualifications of personnel of the organizations handling rural training, and improving the management of OPVN, will all be moving in the direction of Brig Gen Seyni Kountche's constant concern to improve agricultural production to attain food self-sufficiency. He added that no matter whether agricultural production is high or low, these storehouses are a definite asset, because not only will they make it possible to store the agricultural inputs that are used more and more in intensive farming and protect them from the elements for better efficiency, but will also enable protection of the grain supplies, which are vulnerable, damageable and destructible by natural weather or human factors.

Our cooperative members, in future better instructed, trained, and with supervisory skills for the battle against hunger, will use this equipment to good purpose, the speaker concluded.

9920

CSO: 3419/152

NIGER

BRIEFS

FRENCH PHOTO LAB EQUIPMENT--The cultural counsellor of the French Embassy in Niger, Christian Bouquet, yesterday turned over a gift of photo equipment to the National Museum. This equipment, a complete photographic laboratory, has an estimated value of 300,000 francs. [Excerpt] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 16 Oct 84 p 2] 9920

FRENCH WHEAT DONATION--The secretary general of the Ministry of Rural Development yesterday morning received 104 tons of wheat, part of the French seed contribution in the framework of the government's off-season crops operation. The air transport was paid by the European Development Fund (EDF). [Text] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 14 Nov 84 p 1] 9920

CSO: 3419/152

STATEMENTS, COMMENTS AFTER STUDENT UNREST

Verges Backs Student Demonstrations

Saint-Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 8 Nov 84 p 2

[Article signed E.O.: "Meeting With Paul Verges at the Port; The Youth Movement Is an Historical Event, the Full Scope of Which Should Be Realized"]

[Text] "It is the future of Reunion that we have seen throughout the country," Paul Verges stated in particular.

The meeting with Paul Verges that took place Tuesday evening at the Port was chaired by Fabien Lanave, chairman of the Reunion Federation of Senior Citizens. In his intervention, he protested in particular against police violence and repression. Then, Christiane Maunier, a student at the vocational school, and Patrick Boitard, a CORJ [Organization Committee to Rally the Young] official, explained the courage and determination shown by the young. Speaking on behalf of the municipality, Jean-Yves Langenier pointed out that they had received active support from the mayor's office. This materialized at the start of the movement by the vote of a debate at the Municipal Council. During his intervention, Paul Verges insisted on the part played by the young in the country and emphasized in particular that government officials should have understood the scope of the movement. He then spoke of a "psychological mistake" of government officials; instead of offering their support, they either called for repression against the young, or else failed to support them when it was in their very best interest to do so.

First, after denouncing the part played by the media and the right-wing press "to stifle the voice of the workers and the young," Paul Verges insisted on the historical importance of the youth movement. "The month of October 1984 will be remembered in the history of our country," he said.

He then recalled the demographic weight of the young in Reunion where "half the population is under 20." "It is the future of Reunion that we saw

throughout the country," he added; these young have shown that they would not accept injustice, and this is why they represent a force with which we shall have to reckon.

The mayor of the Port then showed that the scope of the youth movement should be assessed carefully. "When the young demonstrated," he said, "they were protecting the interests of their parents." Paul Verges then showed the injustice that prevails in the present system of scholarships, which are taken away from families to pay for school cafeterias.

As far as the struggles of the young are concerned, the deputy to the European parliament offered two observations. The first is that "all parents should look with respect upon the young" who have fought for the vital interest of families. The second is that it was only through their struggle that the young won: if they had not demonstrated, they would not have obtained anything.

Paul Verges also demonstrated how serious were the precisions contained in minister Chenevemet's letter to communist mayors. Alignment on the system used in the mother country will affect the granting of scholarships and nothing has been settled in this respect: eventually, the government intends to deny scholarships to 13,000 children within the next 2 or 3 years. "Thousands of poor families are threatened," he said.

This alignment should be seen in relation with the problem of the corrective index for government officials. Indeed, under the previous system, scholarships were attributed on the basis of the corrective index used for government officials. And alignment consisted in abolishing it... The mayor of the Port then spoke of the psychological mistake of government officials who did not understand that they, too, were concerned by the scholarship issue and who remained passive or even blamed the youth movement and called for repression.

In this respect, we should emphasize the responsible attitude of the General Confederation of Labor of Reunion, the Women's Union of Reunion, and the General Confederation of Labor of the Postal Administration, which spoke in favor of the young and gave them all their solidarity and support.

"The Violence of Poverty"

After that, Paul Verges demonstrated the profound meaning of the youth's struggle.

"The young did not fight only for their scholarships," he said. "The merit of the young is that they came out of obscurity." A whole segment of the population, which is subjected to "social violence" burst onto the Reunion scene.

The young showed that they have the right to live and that they will never accept injustice. Paul Verges spoke of the "violence of poverty" which means "not having enough to eat everyday." In addition, under present conditions, most of those who are unemployed are young people. After pointing out that

the plundering that took place at the Oasis High School was "regrettable--yet, 'all the 'nacos' in the world weigh less than the broken future of a single Reunion scholarship student," Paul Verges had told the Port Municipal Council--he stated that "a high official has no right to lose his head." And, speaking of what took place at the Port, he pointed out that the Municipal Council had been unanimous on Monday evening to ask the government to stop all legal proceedings and to set up a commission of enquiry. Finally, he explained why "the struggle of the young is the struggle of all the poor and all social classes in Reunion."

Worsening of the Crisis

During his intervention, Paul Verges also pointed out that the crisis is worsening and, in particular, will affect all planters next year. He showed that the 1.27-percent increase in 1985 budget allocations was quite inadequate and that this would result in increasing unemployment. He then pointed out to studies made by the IDR [expansion unknown] and by the University, projecting 100,000 unemployed in 4 years. After making several comments on Mr Lemoine's position on the question of the TUC [expansion unknown] and on that of the Young-Child Allowance, Paul Verges indicated that the situation would be worse next year. "How can a leftist government have such a policy?" Paul Verges asked.

Finally, the general secretary of the Reunion Communist Party explained that the young fought for the application of a law that has not been applied for 10 years. "The struggle for justice will continue," he said, and through their struggle "the young have shown the way to all those on the island who are unemployed." "The great illusions of 1981 have been replaced by disappointment and a renewed determination to achieve changes," Paul Verges concluded.

Lemoine Scores Students

Saint-Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 8 Nov 84 p 3

[Article: "Georges Lemoine Had Hardly Landed When He Condemned the Movement of Secondary School Students For Free Meals and Scholarships For Those Entitled to Them; His Statement Shows That the Socialist Government Has Failed to Understand the Historical Importance of the Struggle of Tens of Thousands of Reunion Youngs"]

[Excerpt] Upon his arrival at Gillot yesterday, Mr Lemoine condemned the movement of secondary school students which, in his opinion, was "unnecessary." He also confirmed that there would be nearly no credit for development projects and was not optimistic concerning the extension of the Young-Child Allowance to Reunion.

The secretary of state to overseas departments and territories arrived yesterday morning at Gillot from Seychelles, in the private plane of President Albert Rene. He was met at the airport by the commissioner of the Republic accompanied by high prefecture officials and various political personalities

of our island, including Paul Verges, general secretary of the Reunion Communist Party.

After reviewing the troops, Mr Georges Lemoine met with the press. Asked by RFO [expansion unknown] about the reduction of students' scholarships, his first words were to condemn the movement of secondary school students.

In his opinion, this struggle was unnecessary, as everyone knew that measures would be taken to mitigate the impact of the implementation of the new system. "I regret what happened," he said in particular. The secretary of state was very reserved as to the solutions that will be implemented in 1985 and in subsequent years, thus confirming that the young were indeed right to fight for free cafeteria meals and scholarships for those entitled to them. "He only indicated that "this will be a subject for consultation."

Lemoine Claim Refuted

Saint-Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 8 Nov 84 p 3

[Article: "Answer to Mr Lemoine Concerning His Condemnation of the Secondary School Students' Movement"]

[Text] According to Mr Georges Lemoine, the F 12 million in additional credits intended to cover cafeteria and boarding expenses after payment of the scholarships were sure to be made available.

In that case, and based on this alleged "certainty," why did he not send a telex long before 23 August, to announce that these credits were being granted?

Also, why did socialist officials, including Jean-Claude Fruteau, back down for a while, stating that none of them had mentioned the amount of F 12 million and that this was pure invention on the part of reporters?

Why did these same Socialist Party officials feel they had to blackmail the government, threatening to reconsider their membership in the socialist group?

Besides, the very wording of the communique issued on 23 October by the State Secretariat to Overseas Departments and Territories clearly shows that nothing had been decided yet. Actually, this had to go up all the way to the prime minister before a solution was finally adopted. This proves that negotiations were closely argued and that Mr Laurent Fabius's arbitration was necessary; the latter made his decision only at the last minute, when confronted with the powerful secondary school students' movement.

Actually, Mr Lemoine's statements served only to emphasize a little more the uncertainty and vagueness of the government's position since this question was raised. At any rate, we shall remember that the socialist government condemned the movement of the secondary school students of Reunion to protect their and their parents' interests.

Now, demonstrations are taking place in France every day. Demonstrations of farmers, workers threatened with layoffs, steelworkers, etc. Were these workers' struggles condemned? No, of course not. This definitely shows a different attitude toward the people of Reunion. We shall let each of us qualify this attitude according to his own sensitivity.

Harassment of CORJ Chairman

Saint-Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 17-18 Nov 84 p 8

[Article signed J.M.: "The CORJ Chairman Is Denouncing a Machination Directed Against Him in an Attempt to Weaken the Reunion Youth Movement"]

[Text] "For some time, the chairman of the CORJ (Organization Committee to Rally the Young) has been the object of a veritable conspiracy to bring him down politically!" Speaking with a firm and solemn voice, Ari Yee Chong Tchi Kan denounced yesterday, at a press conference, the machination that some have engineered against him to try and implicate him in the burning of the Air France vacation village. For reporters, the CORJ chairman also gave an account of his trip to Moscow, in the context of the preparation of the 12th Festival of Youth that will take place next year in the Soviet capital.

"The information I have enable me to say that an attempt is being made to discredit the CORJ chairman among the young." This is what Ari Yee Chong Tchi Kan is stating. He added that some people have built a case based on false evidence to try and implicate him in the burning of the Air France vacation village that took place several months ago.

The fire, which according to investigators was the result of arson, was never fully explained. The emergence of the Reunion young on the political and social scene is a cause of concern in some circles. And they would like to break the movement by striking its head. This is why they will use all means to attack the CORJ chairman.

"I am sure that the scheme will fail and turn itself against the person or persons who are behind it," he said. "Are we going to see again the same provocations that in the past were the talk of political circles," he asked. By taking this case to the public, Ari Yee Chong Tchi Kan is making Reunion citizens aware of a machination directed against an official representative of the struggling youth.

The CORJ chairman started his press conference by giving an account of the preparation of the 12th World Youth Festival, for which he visited Moscow on 2-4 November. The festival will take place in the Soviet capital next July. It will gather over 20,000 young from all over the world and will be placed under the sign of the struggle for peace. "The festival movement," in the words of Ari Yee Chong Tchi Kan, was created immediately after World War II to form a chain of solidarity and friendship.

The CORJ chairman also discussed the question of the TUC [expansion unknown] and regretted the inadequacy of the credits allocated to overseas departments. He also spoke against the discrimination exerted against young people in Reunion, which will receive only F 1,000 instead of F 1,200 as in France. He also asked that TUC credits should be used judiciously, to reforest the west region for instance.

CORJ Demand Reported

Saint-Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 17-18 Nov 84 p 8

[Article signed A.D.: "The CORJ Demands the Immediate Application of the Order of 1974... and Its Participation in Consultations"]

[Text] At a press conference held yesterday by the CORJ, Ari Yee Chong Tchi Kan spoke on the question of scholarships and cafeteria meals.

He first said that he was pleased by the "first step" made by the government following the powerful demonstration of secondary school students. "The government announced that consultations would be opened; it is a good thing," he said. But he asked that discussions should start soon and, in particular, that CORJ be one of the parties invited at the round table. "The CORJ is entitled to be a full-fledge party to this consultation. Public opinion would not understand that the youth organization that formulated the movement's demands be excluded," the CORJ chairman stated. "In whose name could Mr Le-moine decree that the CORJ should be excluded? And how could the CORJ participation bother him?"

Ary Yee Chong Tchi Kan then came to the vital element that surfaced recently in the question of cafeteria meals and scholarships: the revelation that an order issued in 1974 and never applied provided that the FASO [expansion unknown] fund must finance cafeterias in secondary and vocational schools, not just in primary schools.

For 10 years, the CORJ official pointed out, right-wing governments and the socialist government have thus misappropriated children's scholarship money to pay for lunch costs: "That means a serious loss of money for their families." It is now urgent to make up for this injustice: "The text of 1974 must be implemented."

The existence of the 1974 order is "the best proof," Ary Yee Chong Tchi Kan concluded, "that our demands were not utopian, as some were saying, but that on the contrary they lie at the heart of the debate."

9294

CSO: 3419/179

CNTS-UDTS CONFRONTATION NOTED

Dakar LE POLITICIEN in French 25 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Mass Diack: "Towards A Confrontation"]

[Text] Trade union interaction in our country is beginning to take a disquieting turn which, if one does not take care, may well lead to a dangerous situation, to say the least. The forthcoming formation of the Democratic Union of Workers of Senegal (UDTS), under the leadership of Alioune Sow of the Froludes and others, Fambaye Fall Diop and Thierno Ba of the Committee for Trade Union Restoration, will surely be the fuse that lights the powder keg.

Since the bloody events of last July at the Labor Exchange there is no further doubt that Madia Diop's goose is cooked and the ones who previously made him the all-powerful chief of the CNTS [National Confederation of Senegalese Workers] want nothing more to do with him.

He, and to a certain extent the federation along with him, eluded party control. Hence, he had to be eliminated. And the plan set in motion is quite simple: incite, if not encourage the creation of a new federation which will provide the departure of many CNTS members. Then it will suffice to make use of the by-laws which provide that "the confederation can lose its designation if two-thirds of the members of its management committee withdraw." Hence, no more CNTS and no more Madia Diop.

It is so simple that someone only had to think of it. But it may perhaps be that at the Socialist Party level perhaps all the consequences of inciting, or of supporting such a maneuver were not weighed. It is obvious that Madia's friends will not let this happen without doing something about it. And there are increasingly persistent rumors to the effect that Sunday they may possibly be present at the headquarters of the Socialist Party to prevent the holding of the constituent assembly of the UDTS.

Consequently, one can gauge the seriousness of the situation and imagine the events which will certainly transpire, for which the Socialist Party will be primarily responsible. Because in the end, the CNTS is still affiliated with the PS [Socialist Party]. It is therefore hard to understand how the PS can offer Party headquarters to a CNTS faction so that the faction may

hold its constituent assembly there. It is as if, today, PS dissidents wanted to hold their meeting at the Party headquarters.

To want to unseat Madia Diop is one problem. But it is a quite serious affair to agree to unleash dangerous and uncontrollable events. Nevertheless that is the situation we are heading toward.

For whatever Madia Diop may represent now, he isn't worth that. [Since] Madia's CNTS had become reluctant to obey certain watchwords and directives of the Party, the latter is quite free to oust it or disaffiliate it. But under current circumstances it does not seem to us to be the most appropriate tactic to impose a test of strength where everyone would be the loser.

Or else, one must believe the CNTS is much stronger than one thought.

9772

CSO: 3419/138

COMMENTARY ON PLP TACTICS, OBJECTIVES

Dakar LE POLITICIEN in French 8 Nov 84 p 3

[Article by Mass Diack: "For A Military Dictatorship...?"]

[Text] One day the attorney Abdoulaye Wade of the PDS [Senegalese Democratic Party] stated there were two ways to win over the government: the democratic way and the way of armed force. The attorney of Babacar Niang, leader of the PLP [People's Liberation Party] a convinced Marxist-Leninist, and supporter of the theory of encircling cities beginning with the countryside, said nothing more than that during a press conference.

He simply stated that our country was about to take the road that leads straight to a military coup d'etat, which he himself, in principle, does not condemn. There could not be a clearer call to the army. It is well known that for some time the latter has become the object of the opposition's special attention. True, it is far from the direct and clumsy appeal which formerly almost made the PDS leader pay dearly. Today the tactic is quite different; they proceed by little steps.

And while Abdoulaye Wade has accustomed us to his sensational positions, which in the end have no major repercussions, Babacar Niang, on the other hand, is too prudent a man to commit himself rashly.

So, one should not be surprised if the PLP, contrary to the great majority of the opposition, should today decide to participate in the forthcoming communal and rural elections, even if its leader states he "has no illusion about the will and ability of the government to organize normal elections." All that derives from a well thought out strategy having a certain Marxist logic, which seeks to profit from all the weapons offered by the adversary and sweep in to all the breaches left open.

One should therefore make no mistake about attorney Babacar Niang's true intentions. His first objective of course remains the conquest of power, but not the democratic way. The chosen weapon seems instead to be that of brainwashing and destabilization. And it is important to place in this context the statements of the PLP leader to the National Assembly when he called for an appreciable increase in the material potential of our army, on the grounds that security should take priority over development problems.

Consequently, the Socialist Party in the majority and in power must assume its responsibility for protecting our young democracy which has undertaken to take over and organize the country. If not, attorney Wade will have been right to say that "Senegalese democracy is bugging off." And he will only be mistaken in the names of its destroyers.

9772

CSO: 3419/138

SIDY LAMINE NIASS ON LESSONS OF KHADIM, ISLAMIC DISTRUST OF WEST

Dakar WAL FADJRI in French No 16, 16-30 Nov 84 p 2

[Commentary by Sidy Lamine Niass: "The Lessons of Khadim"]

[Text] Low blows here everywhere, transactions carried on over the heads of the people, superstitions printed in some of the press--those are the evils which the West has left us as an inheritance. This is a kind of evil which makes itself felt both at the continental level (the case of the Organization of African Unity) as well as at the national level. None of our institutions has been unaffected by it. The system of justice, the press (this fourth branch of government), and the administration--the disease is present everywhere.

This is just the result of more than 300 years of a policy carried out by the invaders who, after having set foot on our soil, have ceaselessly trampled on our rich cultural and religious heritage. With their religion and their schools of thought, having in one hand their dungeons, their whips, and their cannon and having in their other hands degradation and corruption, the invaders have done nothing less than trample our culture under foot. Above all the invaders have trained "black skinned people with white masks" as their successors, in order to withdraw from our country without actually leaving it, since they continue to exercise the real power from a distance of thousands of kilometers.

The Western disease, as here defined, has not stopped with the African continent only. This disease is characteristic of the international situation. India is a case in point. Just recently, Mrs Indira Gandhi ended up as a sacrifice in order for her ashes to be scattered throughout her country. The lesson to be learned is that being the heiress of Mahatma Gandhi did not necessarily confer the virtues of the Mahatma on her.

This disease is also raging--and in a more murderous fashion--in Latin America and above all in Nicaragua, where the cowboy, Ronald Reagan, who has won the American elections, wants to continue the state of terror and anarchy, the better to remove this obstacle which has stuck in his throat. There is Reagan, reelected for 4 more years as leader of the United States, thanks to the test of force in Grenada. And there you can see force and terror erected into a system of international policy for the U. S. A. for 4 more years. However, just because something is done once doesn't make it a custom. The people who are determined to do something about it are stronger than the aggressors, who are acting in accordance with and for their own interests.

This determination, this faith in God, and this divine clarity of vision--that is what guided Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba in his struggle against the colonialists who thought they had won before they became involved in a confrontation with him. However, later on it turned out that it was the invaders who withdrew from our country more and more, whereas the political line of the Khadim attracted more and more supporters. This is still true now, despite the small-minded speeches which have lost touch with reality and which continue to support, in one way or another, a lay state for Senegal. However, Khadim and all of the holy leaders of this country fought against this kind of lay state. However, when they want to please their masters, any kind of praise will do.

The lessons of Khadim are still those of Islam and of the Koran, which he faithfully preached. They showed themselves in concrete terms in his actions and in his words. Among other things, these lessons teach us the virtues of perseverance, patience, and determination in action.

Today it is before hundreds of thousands of the faithful that the historic day of his exile to Gabon is celebrated. On this day we must recall above all that the work of Khadim was essentially to convert the country to Islam. This desire has already become more noble because the concept of a lay state is a dead letter, and Islam is making progress. This is a lesson which should draw the attention of our petty leaders who take their instructions from abroad. They should recall that the people are determined and that blustering speeches won't do any more.

5170

CSO: 3419/175

RELATIONS OF MAGAL DE TOUBA WITH GOVERNMENT EXAMINED

Dakar WAL FADJRI in French No 16, 16-30 Nov 84 pp 8-9

[Article by Y. Ndiaye]

[Text] After the Tabaski incident, relations between Touba and the Abdou Diouf government are now being normalized. In place of the sharp differences expressed in September, the Touba has now made certain explanations which emphasize reconciliation from the heart or mind between the spiritual authority represented by the Touba and the Senegalese state.

There were denunciations of government policy in the information field, attacks on the ORTS [Senegalese Radio and Television Service], which was declared "persona non grata" to the Magal de Touba, and criticism of "sectarianism." Those were the complaints which were the essential features of the sermon of Serigne Abdoul Ahad Mbacke, the caliph general of the Mourides, at the time of the Tabaski incident. And as a result a "quarrel" broke out between the Abdou Diouf government and the spiritual power of the Magal de Touba, the central event of the Mourides community. To calm things down, a few people will be fired in the radio and television service, which was violently attacked. And after that things will be normal.

The great Magal de Touba, which is the most important event in the life of the Mourides community, and which was celebrated on 12-13 November, was officially to mark this reconciliation. By receiving a government delegation, led by Medoune Fall, the minister of armed forces, the caliph general of the Mourides community in effect attacked those who distorted his views at Tabaski and who interpreted his sermon as one way of seeking a quarrel with the government. Now, he has added: "I never sought a quarrel with anyone and I never was annoyed. I only denounced an act of injustice and nothing more." Those were the statements made by Serigne Abdoul Ahad in answer to the comments made by Medoune Fall. By clarifying the discussion, his intention was, it appears, to "clear up any misunderstanding among the Talibes," to whom he was speaking.

Once he had made this point clear, the caliph finally prayed to God for the welfare of the Senegalese people. This is because, he stated, this manna from heaven which filled the heart and the mind, because it related to mind and matter at the same time, is more durable than prosperity, which is a passing thing. He

added: "After prosperity comes disaster," a reason for which he prefers the well-being of the people.

The speech by Medoune Fall, which preceded the one by the caliph, was not a declaration of allegiance, as everyone expected. The tone certainly was courteous, but the content was nonetheless rather distant and not very forthcoming. For example, he did not praise the good relations between Abdou Diouf and Serigne Abdoul Ahad. He merely emphasized, in passing, that they were excellent, before asking the caliph to pray for the prosperity of the country, which is going through a difficult period.

This exchange of courtesies took place 24 hours after the Magal de Touba as such was held. The festival commemorates the departure into exile of Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba, the founder of the Mourides community. This festival brings to Touba a large number of men and women, who come by train, bus, and fast automobiles, or who come on the backs of donkeys or on foot. However, it should be noted that this was in no way comparable to the crowds of past years, as the present economic circumstances have had their effect. And as the peanut harvest had just begun, this did not make things any easier.

Fervor

During the 2 days of the festival of the Magal de Touba religious fervor was evident everywhere in Touba where, in each residential area, shrines had been erected to the glory of the prophet. Meanwhile, in front of the great mosque, where the successors of Serigne Touba lie buried, crowds of people formed and broke up along the streets, with clashes frequently taking place. In effect, everyone wanted to pray before the tomb of Serigne Falilou Mbacke or kiss the threshold or door of the mosque.

Finally, the Magal de Touba is a place for the sale of products which are usually prohibited. The transactions take place with the police looking on unconcernedly. They are charged with ensuring order and regulating the traffic. Everything can be bought in Touba, except cigarettes, which, of course, are prohibited there. You can buy anything from pistols (there are plenty of models available) to products for lightening the color of the skin (or "khessal"--made in Gambia).

However, contrary to the practice in past years, the Magal de Touba this year was not particularly good business for the merchants of Touba. The organizers of "night life" even so did good business in Mbacke (7 kilometers from Touba), where perversions and debauchery are still a common practice. Until when? They expect the caliph to look the other way because, as one observer was saying: "A good religious leader should wear eyeshades."

5170

CSO: 3419/175

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DISTRICT ELECTIONS SLATED--Second Vice President Afrah today announced that national and district assembly elections will take place on 31 December 1984. The number of polling stations in the country will be 1,655. [Summary] [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somalia 2045 GMT 8 Dec 84 EA]

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH PRC--At the headquarters of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education in Mogadishu today, the SDR and PRC governments signed an agreement on cooperation in the fields of culture, education and information. The agreement, which will officially come into force in 1985-86, provides for exchange visits of delegations, exchanges of broadcasting information, exchanges of radio and TV programs, and technical aid. It calls on the two sides to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of films aimed at enhancing the interests of the two peoples. The agreement was signed on behalf of the SDR by the deputy minister of culture and higher education, Fatimah Ahmad 'Ali, and the Chinese deputy minister for culture, (Lu Jihanyang) [Excerpt] [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 8 Dec 84 EA]

CSO: 3403/2

SOUTH AFRICA

HELEN SUZMAN'S STATEMENTS IN U.S. CRITICIZED

Pretoria BEELD in Afrikaans 12 Nov 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Oh No, Helen!"]

[Text] There are those in America, such as the Solarz's, who want to hurt South Africa economically in a crude way. Others, such as the Sullivans, do this under the pretext of more honorable motives; specifically, that they are exerting economic pressure in the interests of black South Africans.

In the end, coercive economic measures will, if they succeed, all lead to a weakening of South Africa, regardless of intention--and a weakened South Africa will more easily fall prey to the forces of chaos.

That pedantic or hostile Yanks are not worried about such a result is understandable. It will not be their problem if it happens.

What is entirely incomprehensible, however, is that South Africans such as Mrs Helen Suzman see their way clear to idle chat which can do nothing but strengthen the Yanks in their mischief. Recently again she said in an interview in America that the South African government should not think that the reelection of President Reagan will mean the end of the divestiture campaign--and she in fact expects that it will be intensified.

Anti-South African Yanks can easily conclude from such statements that a prominent politician such as Mrs Suzman acknowledges as it were that the Americans have good reason to apply economic coercion to the South African government and people--if it is not in fact welcomed. In this way, that which the Yanks may see as a supposed South African desire can easily become the source of American thinking.

Hopefully Mrs Suzman can be persuaded in the future to hold her tongue before she, together with the Tutus and Boesaks, gives hostile foreign countries the impression that they are fighting the good fight against South Africa--while all along they are simply trying to bring the country to its knees.

12271

CSO: 3401/14

SOUTH AFRICA

COLOREDS' SUPPORT FOR HOMELAND POLICY

Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 31 Oct 84 p 11

[Text] More Coloreds support the Conservative Party's policy on Colored and Indian homelands than support the new constitutional dispensation which was brought into being in accordance with the policy of the National Party.

This claim was made day before yesterday by Dr Ferdi Harzenberg, Vice Chairman of the KP, when he addressed a KP meeting in the constituency.

Dr Hartzenberg said that according to the Erika Theron Report, 20 percent of Coloreds accepted the idea of a homeland for themselves. A further 12 percent would have accepted it were it not located in the Richtersveld.

Against this, 17.8 percent of Coloreds in the past election voted for the new constitutional dispensation. "We can, therefore, remark on the support of 32 percent of Coloreds for our policy on Colored homelands," he said.

It must be borne in mind that this support for a Colored homeland is expressed in a dispensation in which such a concept is not feasible. If the Coloreds ever have their own territory, as the KP is striving to bring about for them, they will become a truly great people.

During the question and answer period, Dr Hartzenberg said, in answer to a question from Parson Leon Louw, who said he is no Nationalist, that the KP is also sympathetic to the families of the four South Africans who are to go on trial in Britain on a charge of illegal purchase of firearms for South Africa.

It was worthy of note that Dr Hartzenberg's criticism of the government's reprisals not to send the four back, was considerably more restrained than the criticism by other KP leaders in recent weeks.

Roughly 400 persons attended the gathering.

12494

CSO: 3401/42

SOUTH AFRICA

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTION OF COLOREDS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE DISCUSSED

Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans, 2 Nov 84 p 15

[Text] An announcement on the appointment and promotion of Coloreds in senior positions in the government service is expected shortly, Rev Allan Hendrickse, Chairman of the Cabinet Council of the Council of Representatives, said yesterday.

This follows on meetings which the Cabinet Council held with Mr F W de Klerk, Minister for Internal Affairs, and Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Political Development and Planning.

Rev Hendrickse said yesterday his Cabinet Council discussed last month, at some depth, with the ministers concerned, the question of the appointment and promotion of Coloreds in government service, especially those in senior positions.

"We recognize that backward position is not a result of one's own choice, but is due to circumstances. However much we accept the system of promotion through merit, we also believe in 'affirmative action,' as it is practiced in America," Rev Hendrickse said.

According to Rev Hendrickse, 'affirmative action' is a purposeful, positive measure which must be applied in order that Coloreds be appointed to executive positions in government service.

"The Cabinet Council holds the view that there are plenty of Coloreds who could be appointed to senior positions based on merit, and through the application of 'affirmative action.'"

It is acknowledged that the Commission for Administration, which makes appointments and promotes employees in government service, consists solely of whites. If a system of 'affirmative action' is introduced, the Commission will be carefully scrutinized.

"For example, the Commission for Administration could easily be viewed as a body which only furthers the interests of whites.

"It must be borne in mind that four times as many opportunities for promotions exist for whites, as exist for Coloreds. While whites can be promoted in black affairs, Indian affairs, white affairs and Colored affairs, Coloreds are limited to one group."

12494

CSO: 3401/42

SOUTH AFRICA

COLOREDS' ENTHUSIASM FOR 'HOMELAND' QUESTIONED

Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 3 Nov 84 p 9

[Text] Herstigte National Party has been challenged by a Colored leader to ask the President to hold a referendum among Coloreds to find out what their views are on a Colored homeland.

In a commentary of a speech by Mr Louis Stafberg, Head Secretary of the HNP, about a Colored homeland, Colored leaders said, among other things, that Coloreds will surely not accept a homeland if they reject group territories.

Mr Stafberg alleged in a speech last week that, among other things, a survey made by the Council for Humanitarian Research revealed that 25 percent of Coloreds support apartheid measures and that the plan of the HNP for a homeland for Coloreds is feasible. He said the HNP and the Conservative Party are united on the question of a Colored homeland.

Rev Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labor Party and Chairman of the Cabinet Council of the Council of Representatives, said that the right-wing politicians in the country do not realize how very antagonistic Coloreds are to apartheid.

"If there are really Coloreds who are toying with the idea of a homeland, it is for strategic reasons, for reasons completely different from those the rightists would proffer. Moreover, a homeland is altogether impractical."

Mr Peter Marais, leader of the Peoples' Congress Party and member of the President's Council, challenged the rightists to ask the government to hold a referendum on the question of a Colored homeland.

Mr Marais said that no respectable Colored person would support the concepts of apartheid or of a homeland.

"I would really like to know how the RGN has come to those findings. Maybe we should look at how the questions are asked," said Mr Marais.

He said the politicians of the far right do the nation a disservice with their idle talk of a homeland, because they play on Coloreds' suspicion of whites.

"The Coloreds did not reject the new dispensation because they want a new homeland, as the rightists argue."

"If Coloreds reject group territories, how can the HNP still think that they want a homeland?" asked Mr Marais.

Mr Arthur Booysen, leader of the Freedom Party, said his party rejects the idea of a homeland for Coloreds, and apartheid measures.

"We do not even discuss it or speak about it. South Africa is our country and we claim the right to live and move about in any part of South Africa."

12494

CSO: 3401/42

SOUTH AFRICA

COMMENTARY ON BLACK TRADE UNIONS, STRIKES

• RAPPORT Discusses Strike

Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans 11 Nov 84 p 14

[Editorial: "Strike"]

[Text] The strike by black workers, especially on the Witwatersrand, is not merely a passing incident. It is turning into a strategy for protest that could have very serious consequences.

Analysts of the situation point out that this is not a protest to force negotiation on identifiable problems, but rather that it is stimulating defiant agitation against order and authority.

It is an exercise in methods of paralyzing the national economy.

It is a challenge to the state to take action, in order to then try to gain world sympathy as martyrs.

It is an attempt to hamper the government to such an extent that the image of instability in South Africa is intensified.

It intends to generate confrontation and conflict, which is bound to result in violence and counterviolence.

It is in addition coupled with a great amount of intimidation. The agitators are clearly radical, and they are misusing the ordinary worker to create an atmosphere of revolution.

Attitude

Against this background, it is unthinkable that the state will not strike back with great force. It is after all the function of a constitutional state to maintain law and order so that all facets of society can function freely.

All members of all groups demand that the state check disruptions. The ordinary black worker is entitled to protection of his freedom of movement and freedom of labor.

Thus, our attitude is:

The state must do mopping up work with the right and power that is its due.

Black leaders must make clear their opposition to intimidators and lead their communities in protest against radical agitators.

Grievances and demands must be formulated clearly and bargained for in negotiations.

Where there is no readiness to negotiate and demands are not formulated clearly and reasonably, the basis for any demonstrations is lost.

In such a case, the authorities step in to enforce order.

Symptom

Our attitude as stated above does not weaken the other attitude of RAPPORT, namely that all the unrest is a symptom of a confrontation in South Africa which cannot be exorcised by violence.

There are justified grievances, there is a need for a more satisfactory political dispensation for blacks. The structures for meaningful negotiation must become discernible as soon as possible.

The establishment of renewal and reform around the black communities, with political accommodation as a goal, is an urgent priority.

DIE TRANSVALER on Unions

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 9 Nov 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Black Labor Unions"]

[Text] There is nothing wrong with South Africa's labor legislation except that radical elements in the non-white communities wish to misuse it with ulterior motives and that white political groups sometimes make reproaches about it primarily based on racial discrimination. If meaningful use is made of the reciprocal protection offered to employer and employee by the laws and the machinery for negotiation created by them is applied in an orderly fashion, this can only promote a calm climate for labor.

Various attempts have been made recently, primarily by the Left, to create unrest in the labor market. Such as the non-attendance experienced earlier this week and the problems at SASOL [South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corporation] which led to the firing of 6,000 blacks.

It is an abominable situation when proper order is chastised in this way. No right-thinking South African will ever allow labor unions to be manipulated by radicals to such an extent that the country's labor situation is as disrupted as in the recent events in Britain.

The chaos which political muddling in the labor union structure can cause is universally known. If there are organizations in South Africa with these very plans, they must be rejected in their entirety. And this rejection will have to take place primarily within the ranks of the non-white workers themselves. Because it is these people who will suffer hardship if the political intriguers have their way.

It is not known what exactly is behind the problem at SASOL, but the 6,000 people who lost their jobs as a result of the non-attendance must now know that belonging to a labor union does not mean that one can just simply abandon one's work. There is, after all, such a thing as self-discipline as well. And blacks should not think that if they strike arbitrarily, then employers will bend to every blow so that the wheels can keep turning.

Minister De Klerk directed a clear message to employees the day before yesterday about these problems. There are forces and influences at work that want to take labor unions down a dangerous path. The government will not tolerate this.

In short, the black worker will have to see to it himself that his house is in order. Only then will he receive his due. This is indeed the crux of our labor legislation.

12271

CSO: 3401/14

SOUTH AFRICA

ATI EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTIES, CHANGES NAME

Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 2 Nov 84 p 23

[Text] Johannesburg -- Products made in South Africa are eventually going to become less competitive than imported products, which are more easily imported as a result of South Africa's open economy.

So says Mr Basil Hersov, chairman of Anglo-Transvaal Industries, in the latest annual report for the year ending at the end of June this year.

He said that the reasons for this development are the lifting of the LIEU [last in-first out] basis for supply valuation for tax purposes and the gradual decrease in allowances for investments, which is going to result in less money being used for the expansion and improvement of manufacturing facilities.

Last year there was cautious optimism that trade conditions in South Africa might improve during the middle of this year, but after the temporary improvement at the end of last year the market declined further.

Subsidiaries

Now no improvement is expected before the end of next year, he said.

The group's subsidiaries will find it difficult during the current fiscal year to equal last year's output, when the volume of business increased 13.2 percent and profits before taxes were up 8.5 percent.

In the announcement of the general annual meeting to be held on November 22 of this year, it is recommended that the association's name be changed to Anglo-vaal Nywerhede (Anglo-Vaal Industries).

12620

CSO: 3401/43

SOUTH AFRICA

REQUEST BY AV FOR AFFILIATION WITH FAK TO BE CONSIDERED

Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 12 Nov 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] A request from Professor Carel Boshoff of the Afrikaner National Guard [AV] for affiliation with the Federation of Afrikaner Cultural Associations [FAK] will be very carefully considered because of the political color that the movement has, according to Professor Gawie Cillie, chairman of the executive committee of the FAK.

At its first annual meeting in Hartbeespoort the AV decided to try to affiliate with the FAK because schools will not accommodate the AV without FAK affiliation.

Change

"We are going to consider it very carefully because of its implications," Professor Cillie said yesterday in Stellenbosch.

He said it is clear from the factions in the AV that the movement "was conceived and born in politics." It originated when a group of people refused to abide by the results of last year's November 2 referendum.

"The group apparently sees no possibility of promoting the Afrikaans language and culture within the framework of the new political dispensation, and it is therefore their opinion that the dispensation must be changed.

"In my opinion it is a purely political matter, and I do not think it is appropriate for a cultural organization to become involved in it."

Professor Cillie said, if "we want to concern ourselves with purely cultural matters -- and this is what we try to do in the FAK -- we have to accept the dispensation in which we find ourselves, whether we agree with the results of the referendum or not, and seek means of promoting culture within that dispensation."

The FAK aims to be a cultural organization within which Afrikaners of various political convictions can feel at home. "We had succeeded at that until the question of the National Guard was raised."

It has always been the executive committee's view that it cannot take sides with any political party.

Professor Cillie said the executive committee has not yet considered the possible admission of the National Guard into the FAK. The executive committee met Friday and until that meeting no such request had ever been received.

Two founding members of the AV, Professor Carel Boshoff of Sabra and Professor Koos Ombard of the Free State University, serve on the executive committee, "and so we will probably have a lengthy discussion."

No matter what side the executive committee chooses, it will not be the desire of everyone.

Effort

Professor Cillie said the FAK decided at its annual meeting in Cape Town in 1982 that it would set about its business in a less exclusive manner, and a considerable effort has been made since then to achieve cooperation across language and cultural boundaries.

"The survival of Afrikaans is less endangered if more people are discussing it, even if they do not belong to your group.

"The attempts at cooperation will not succeed, however, if you have among you people who are so politically oriented and thus so exclusive," Professor Cillie said.

12620

CSO: 3401/43

SOUTH AFRICA

TREURNICHT THINKS WHITE MAJORITIES IN WHITE AREAS POSSIBLE

Bloemfontain DIE VOLKSBLAD in Afrikaans 13 Nov 84 p 6

/Text/ Pretoria--Dr A. P. Treurnicht, the leader of the Conservative Party /KP/, said that white majority occupation in South Africa is possible. However, he could not say how he wants to get around to this when he was questioned by DIE VOLKSBLAD.

Dr Treurnicht said that details on this have not yet been worked out and there are several possibilities which must be researched.

DIE VOLKSBLAD approached him in connection with the position he has taken about the East Rand (where the byelection in Primrose is being held) during the recent KP congress in Kimberly.

Heartland

Dr Treurnicht said that the East Rand is the white heartland and it is a serious crime against white South Africa to allow our fatherland to become overpopulated with black people.

He said that if the Conservative Party comes into power he will freeze the development of two large (black) towns which are to be built there.

At the congress Dr Treurnicht pointed out that, as contained in the KP's program of principles, the party will always "promote" white majority occupation in the republic.

Further

During the interview Dr Treurnicht went further and said that white majority occupation is "possible."

DIE VOLKSBLAD asked Dr Treurnicht how he intends to realize his efforts in achieving white majority occupation in the East Rand area in light of the fact that in 1980 there were already 1,085,500 blacks as against 524,340 whites (not counting the more or less 60,000 Coloreds and Asians who live in the region).

Dr Treurnicht said that he is against the increasing urbanization in the white area. The KP regards the region outside black towns as a white region.

The problems is presented by blacks living in white jurisdiction. If political integration is allowed then that is the end of the whites. The KP is working on the efforts to have the whites be a majority in their own areas, however, the final details for this have not yet been spelled out.

Whereto?

DIE VOLKSBLAD asked Dr Treurnicht where and how would he move the 561,160 blacks in order to attain an equalization in the white and nonwhite population in the East Rand.

Dr Treurnicht said that there are several possibilities. Some of the thinking which is now "going around" would couple an area like Soweto to a national state.

He went on to say that the KP has supported the National Party in creating growth points which must serve as migrating points from white areas. "We think this is a project on which work must be done."

On further questioning Dr Treurnicht said that he cannot say how much this is going to cost and where the people would be moved to.

Study

DIE VOLKSBLAD pointed out to Dr Treurnicht that although he says that white majority occupation in white areas is possible he is not explaining how his party will get around to this.

Dr Treurnicht replied that there are various possibilities which must be studied and the KP will be doing better research on this than President P. W. Botha has done with respect to the cost of colored homelands. Dr Treurnicht also said that in light of the fact that there are various possibilities, he is not for the moment committing himself to one or another.

7964

CSO: 3401/18

FAR RIGHT INFLUENCE SEEN AS BEGINNING TO WANE

Pretoria BEELD in Afrikaans 14 Nov 84 p 14

/Article by columnist Dawie: "Action by the Far Right Comes to a Screeching Halt"/

/Text/ The far-right's attack in the byelections in George, Parrow and Piketberg, which had as its main aim getting a foot inside the south's door, has met up with so much bad luck that it is about to come to a screeching halt. The alliance of the Conservative Party /KP/ and Reconstituted National Party /HNP/ which had to take the south by a storm fizzled out as a joke which left the voters laughing.

In George the HNP realized that in one way or another it had to inject new life into a dying body and decided to bring in help from the north for its two candidates (parliamentary and provincial). Help from elsewhere is not unusual in a byelection, but just look at what happened.

It did not take long for the people brought from the north to get involved in a fist-fight as a result of their action at a National Party meeting...a fight that was explained away in a most comical manner.

Spineless?

The HNP organizer in the constituency has implied that the Transvaalers are the "offsprings of fighting forefathers" and therefore they are "more aggressive" than the Capelanders, so he assumes that the Transvaalers "will take less abuse." If they are put in a tough spot one can only expect them to go into action.

What an excuse! This comes down to saying that the Transvaalers are energetic and full of fire, while the Capelanders are spineless, know nothing about arguing and fighting and do not feel strong about their convictions.

If these imported workers "take less" this means that the Capelanders are more willing to allow themselves to be stepped on and they can easily be made to swallow anything.

Did the HNP spokesman ever give thought to fact that on the one hand we are dealing with a highhanded attitude and civilized actions on the other?

Square Off

In any case his "explanation" is a reflection on all decent Transvaalers and it is an insult to the Capelanders.

The voters of George will surely know how to square off with this.

That is exactly how it goes in Parow and Piketberg where the Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht must carry the banner of the far right. Dr Treurnicht's antics got him so tangled up that there is nothing left of the Conservative Party's efficacy.

There is so little evidence of the Conservative Party that you can hardly believe that these are the same people who, with much bravado, came to storm the two constituencies and if they fear that any further action will further expose the leadership of their leader to public contempt that's well and good.

This does not only have to do with the incoherent talk about Coventry. What is also making them vulnerable is the Conservative Party's continuous attacks on the benefits paid out to the state president and two ministers. Let us just look at the cases of Dr Treurnicht and Dr Freddie Hartzenberg.

Full of Risks

As a sequel to what we said last week with respect to civil service, let us first of all just say that we have always taken the view that members of Parliament ought to be paid appropriately. This is not only a difficult and extremely sacrificing job full of risks, it is also necessary to make sure that the best people are attracted for the country's government.

Needless to say: The salary which must be paid for the new position of executive state president (as it has now been made public), this being a combination of the two highest positions under the previous dispensation, appears to be entirely too small. There are many people who think it should be twice as much and even then they themselves would not be willing to take the job for that much. For years it has always been thought that our top leaders, who must bear all the responsibilities, earn too little.

What Dr Treurnicht and Dr Hartzenberg are now doing is casting suspicion on a system which they themselves helped to create. Moreover, they themselves have profited from this, not to mention the fact that National Party leaders have not accepted certain benefits to which they are entitled, while Conservative Party leaders have grabbed everything they could get their hands on.

The announcement of salary benefits for the politicians is a sensitive matter for them, but is it not true that the allocation of the taxpayers' money will always be a matter of public interest.

As It Should Be

If it is not true, then the situation will be ripe for the sort of propaganda which we are now witnessing.

Only presenting all the facts to the public's eyes can dispel that and this is as it should be.

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

EDITORIAL PRAISES BUTHELEZI--The moderate pronouncements of Captain Gatsha Buthelezi of KwaZulu in influential American newspaper will not be popular in the meddlesome international circles which have recently attempted to instigate a renewed hate campaign against South Africa. A violent change in South Africa will destroy the foundations for the future, the leader of the largest ethnic group in South Africa said in an article in the Washington Post. He pleads strongly for negotiations. It reveals a sense of realism about the South African situation which is altogether wanting in other South Africa non-whites, who often pretend they are spokesmen for all non-whites. The government is, at this moment, busy with a political mental scrimmage over the position of blacks outside the independent national states. The time is now riper than ever for constructive suggestions so that the government can help bring about necessary evolutionary changes in this regard. For this reason the logical result of Captain Buthelezi's moderate statements are looked to with much anticipation; namely practical input which can help to find a solution for one of the nation's greatest problems. As a leader of South Africa's largest ethnic group, he ought to help solve the country's biggest problem of relationships between peoples. It cannot be done without acknowledged black leaders. If he follows his words with deeds, his intentions will be clear. He now has the opportunity for this, an opportunity which he should use, not only in the interest of his own people, but in the interest of all the peoples of South Africa. [Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 1 Nov 84 p 12] 12494

SEPARATE SCHOOLS--The Group Areas Act will not be abolished in the establishment of schools; each community must have its own schools, residential areas and amenities, Mr Piet Clase, MP from Virginia, said at the Free State University. He was guest speaker at the dedication ceremonies for HOD [Higher Education Diploma] students and said that the principles upon which present education policy is based require separate schools for each population group, separate education administrations and departments, and the acknowledgement of freedom of choice in educational affairs, but only within the framework of schools for each population group. The classroom is not the place for engaging in partisan politics. Politicians must recognize that the educator is above attempts to privateer for the sake of partisan objectives. In the new political dispensation, no education can evade political change. Education is inseparably bound to the education policy of the ruling party.

Teacher training should itself provide for renewal and adaptation. The new constitutional dispensation is a reality to which the educator must resign himself. Although an equal standard of education for all population groups is being put into effect, the standard of white education must not be lowered to achieve this. Separate schools are a necessity, but this does not mean total isolation. The school has a duty to bring about contact on an organized basis in order to help various population groups become better acquainted. [Text] [Bloemfontein DIE VOLKSBLAD in Afrikaans 1 Nov 84 p 12] 12271

ZIMBABWEAN EXPORTS ENCOURAGED

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 23 Nov 84 p 21

[Text]

DEMAND and good payment prospects exist in Uganda for a wide range of Zimbabwean products, says the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), which plans to send a trade mission there early next year to coincide with an exhibition of Zimbabwe products in that country.

According to Mr Richard Hess, the ZNCC's export promotion consultant who undertook a recent preliminary market survey of Uganda, a combination of high demand for all sorts of imports and "plenty of money circulating within the country," has attracted businessmen from all over the world — except Zimbabwe.

"Uganda is quickly recovering from the devastation caused by the military regime in the 1970s and the ensuing liberation war," Mr Hess' report reads. "Although the country still appears to be in a bad way, with many buildings and roads in dreadful condition, with services such as electricity, water, telephones and telex working only intermittently... the economy is rapidly picking up."

Foreign exchange is readily available for importers who have the means to purchase it. "In 1982, a system of auctioning foreign exchange was introduced. Under this system, US\$2 million was auctioned each week and sold to the highest bidders. These funds could then be used for payment of imports. The result of this was to rapidly bring goods back into the

shops. Things suddenly became available. The authorities have been very pleased with this system and plan to continue it. Currently, US\$3.75 million is made available each week."

Although Ugandan importers require import licences, they are issued for "monitoring purposes" only, the report goes on. There is no system of rationing of allocations. Anyone who wants to legitimately import goods can get a licence and bid for the foreign currency, provided he has the necessary local currency.

"Uganda's total imports in 1983 were US\$414 million... Official statistics show that Uganda has never imported from Zimbabwe. Apart from mineral fuels, the other major import section is machinery and transport. This has been and still is necessary for the rehabilitation projects. This presents good opportunities for some Zimbabwean engineering firms. Uganda has to import nearly all its requirements except for a few raw materials produced locally.

"There is demand in Uganda for many items produced in Zimbabwe. These include building materials, raw materials, intermediate goods, agricultural implements and inputs, machinery and spare parts, water supply equipment pharmaceuticals, railways stock and a wide variety of consumer goods. Quality, price and service are the vital ingredients to ensure

success for Zimbabwe exporters."

The Ugandan government and importers in that country are generally willing to look to Zimbabwe for supplies, states Mr Hess, but there is a need for Zimbabwean exporters to visit Uganda regularly "and demonstrate the service which can be offered.

"Although at the time of the consultant's visit nothing had been implemented regarding the PTA provisions, both tariff reductions and payment procedures were expected to be introduced shortly. This will give some assistance to Zimbabwean exporters."

The date for the mission has been provisionally set at February 11, 1985. Companies interested in both the exhibition and the mission, are requested to contact Ms Rita Choto at the ZNCC in Harare before November 28.